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THE

ILLINOIS

CENTRAL RAILROAD COMPANY

OFFERS FOR SALE

Over 1.500.000 Acres

SELECTED

FARMING AND WOOD



LANDS

IN TRACTS OF FORTY ACRES AND UPWARDS,

TO SUIT PURCHASERS,

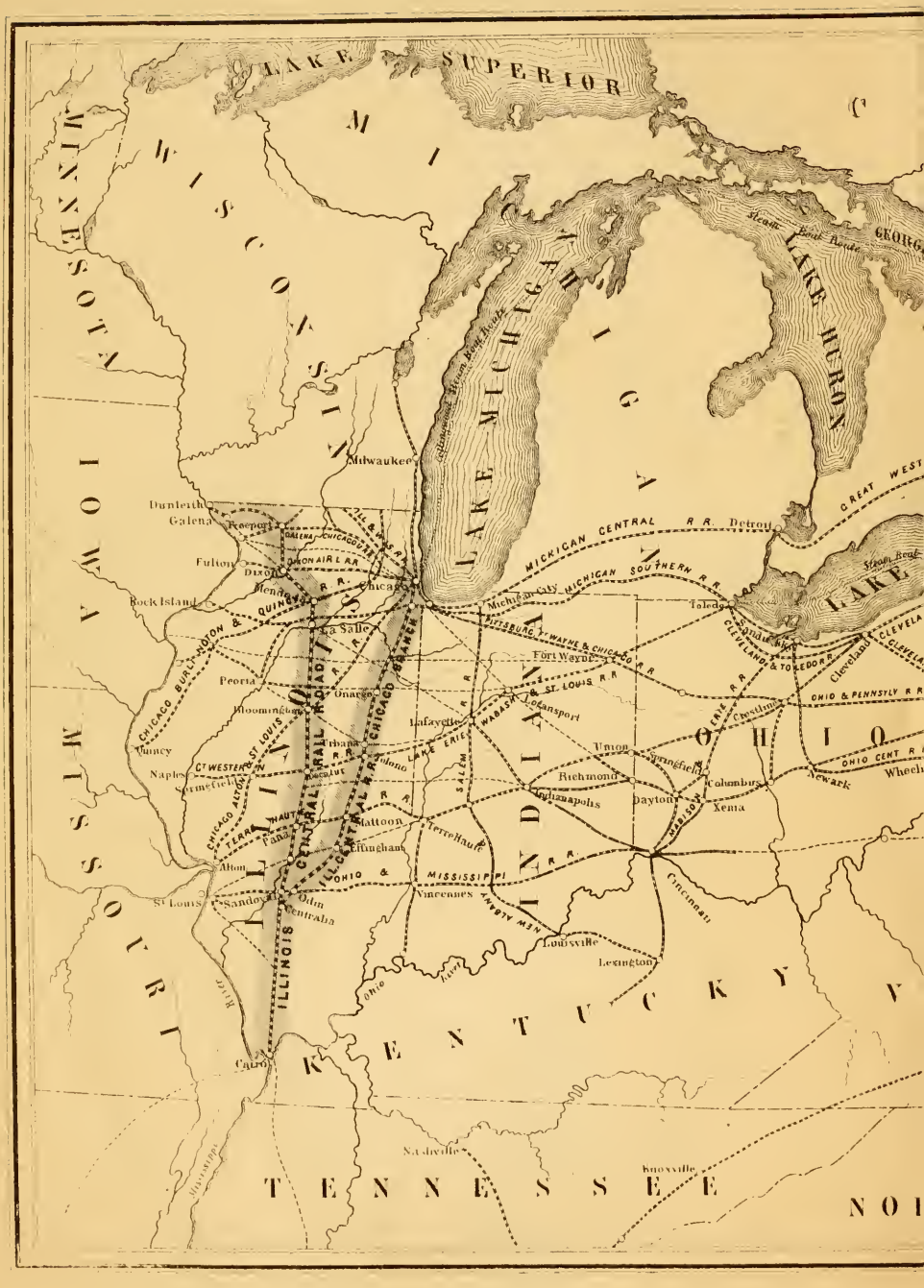
ON LONG CREDITS AND AT LOW RATES OF INTEREST,

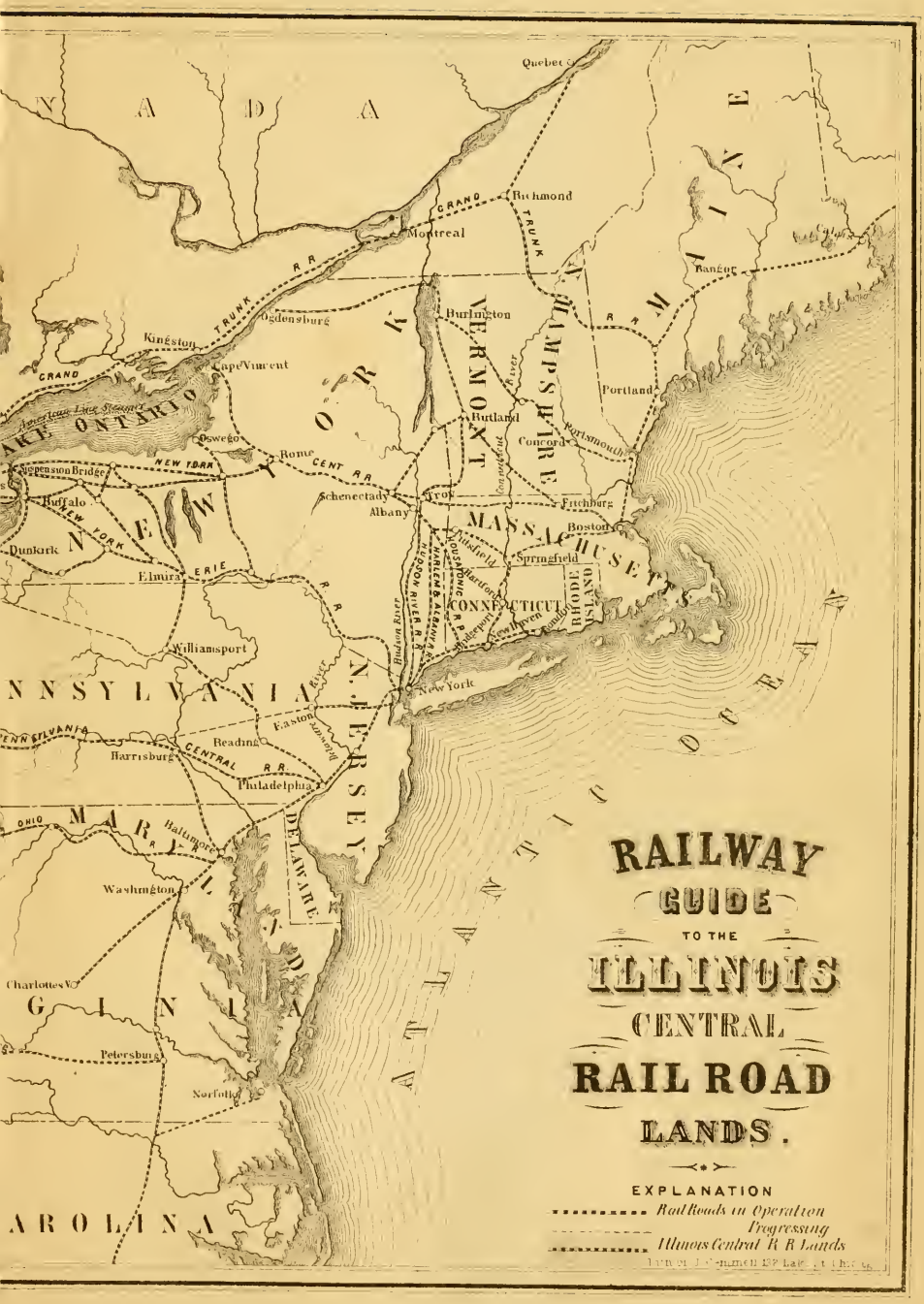
SITUATED

ON EACH SIDE OF THEIR RAILROAD, EXTENDING ALL THE WAY FROM THE EXTREME NORTH TO THE SOUTH OF

THE STATE OF ILLINOIS.

Chicago Daily Press, Print, 45 Clark St.


LAKE SUPERIOR
MINNESOTA
WISCONSIN
MICHIGAN
IOWA
ILLINOIS
INDIANA
OHIO
KENTUCKY
TENNESSEE
LAKE MICHIGAN
LAKE HURON
Steam Boat Route
Milwaukee
Chicago
Detroit
Toledo
Cleveland
Columbus
Dayton
Springfield
Richmond
Indianapolis
Cincinnati
Louisville
Lexington
Nashville
Knoxville
Vincennes
Terre Haute
Lafayette
Logansport
Fort Wayne
Michigan City
Peoria
Bloomington
Galena
Dunleith
Rock Island
Dixon
Sterling
Mendota
Aurora
La Salle
Naples
Quincy
Alton
St Louis
Cairo
Centralia
Effingham
Mattoon
Urbana
Decatur
Springfield
Xenia
Newark
Zanesville
Wheeling
Mississippi
Ohio
Illinois
Wabash
Michigan Central R.R.
Michigan Southern R.R.
Great West
Ohio & Mississippi
Illinois Central R.R.
Chicago Alton R.R.
Chicago Burlington & Quincy R.R.
Chicago & Rock Island R.R.
Pittsburg, Ft Wayne & Chicago R.R.
Cleveland & Toledo R.R.
Ohio & Pennsylv R.R.
Ohio Cent R.R.
Erie R.R.
Terre Haute & Alton R.R.
Cincinnati & Louisville R.R.
Jeffersonville R.R.
Albany Mail Line


Quebec
Montreal
Richmond
GRAND TRUNK R R
Ogdensburg
Kingston
Cape Vincent
Burlington
Rutland
Portland
Bangor
MAINE
VERMONT
NEW HAMPSHIRE
Concord
Portsmouth
Oswego
Rome
Suspension Bridge
Buffalo
Dunkirk
Elmira
Schenectady
Albany
Troy
Fitchburg
Boston
Springfield
Hartford
New Haven
Bridgeport
Stamford
CONNECTICUT
RHODE ISLAND
MASSACHUSETTS
Williamsport
New York
Easton
Reading
Harrisburg
Philadelphia
Baltimore
Washington
DELAWARE
Charlottesville
Petersburg
Norfolk
ATLANTIC OCEAN
NEW YORK
NEW JERSEY
PENNSYLVANIA
MARYLAND
CAROLINA
CENTRAL R R
ERIE R R
HUDSON RIVER R R
HARLEM & ALBANY R R
NEW YORK CENT R R
NEW YORK
OHIO
RAILWAY
GUIDE
TO THE
ILLINOIS
CENTRAL
RAIL ROAD
LANDS.
EXPLANATION
Rail Roads in Operation
Progressing
Illinois Central R R Lands


OUTLINE MAP
OF
ILLINOIS
EXPLANATION
R R in Operation
R R in Progressing
Scale 45 miles to one Inch.
PLATE No 1
CAIRO
Freeport
Galena
Dixon
Amboy
Mendota
Rock Island
Homer
La Salle
Peoria
Bloomington
Decatur
Springfield
Quincy
Alton
Centralia
Chicago
Lake Michigan
Indiana State Line
Mississippi River
Ohio River
Wabash River
Illinois River
Illinois Central Rail Road
Chicago & Mississippi R.R.
Chicago Burlington & Quincy R.R.
Rock Island & Peoria R.R.
Peoria & Oquawka R.R.
Springfield & Western R.R.
Alton & Terre Haute R.R.
Chicago & Alton R.R.
Mississippi & Ohio R.R.
Ohio & Mississippi R.R.
Atlantic & Ohio R.R.
Illinois & Wisconsin R.R.
Galena & Chicago Union R.R.
Dixon Air Line R.R.
Quincy R.R.
Chicago & Rock Island R.R.
Peoria & Logansport & Pacific R.R.
Chicago & Indiana State Line R.R.
Base Line



PRAIRIE SCENE IN ILLINOIS.

THE

Illinois Central Railroad Company

OFFERS FOR SALE

OVER 1,500,000 ACRES

SELECTED

FARMING AND WOOD LANDS,

IN TRACTS OF FORTY ACRES AND UPWARDS, TO SUIT PURCHASERS,

ON

LONG CREDITS AND AT LOW RATES OF INTEREST,

SITUATED

ON EACH SIDE OF THEIR RAILROAD, EXTENDING ALL THE WAY FROM THE EXTREME NORTH TO THE SOUTH OF

THE STATE OF ILLINOIS.

CHICAGO:
ILLINOIS CENTRAL RAIL ROAD OFFICE.
1857.

F 545
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NOTE.

It has been found impossible to answer the large number of letters that are daily received, in reference to these lands. To such, this Pamphlet will be sent, in reply to the questions asked.

27714

1,500,000 ACRES
OF
Illinois Central R. R. Lands.

NOTICE TO PURCHASERS.

THE LANDS offered for sale by the ILLINOIS CENTRAL RAILROAD COMPANY were granted by the United States to the State of Illinois by the act of 20th September, 1850. All the conditions stipulated in that act have been fulfilled, and the title to these lands can no longer be affected by legislation.

By the act of 10th February, 1851, the State of Illinois incorporated this Company and directed the Governor to convey to said Company, by a deed in fee simple, all of said lands, &c.; which was done.

The said act further required said Company to execute a deed of trust of all of said lands, &c., to certain persons named therein by the State, to secure the performance of the conditions and stipulations required thereby. The bonds issued under this trust are being paid as fast as the money is received from the sale of the lands set apart for that purpose. All bonds received for lands, or purchased with the proceeds of such lands, are officially cancelled by the trustees.

Where payment is made in full, the purchaser at once obtains his title from the trustees appointed by the State. If the sale is on credit, however, the title is not given till final payment is made, but the purchaser receives a contract, stipulating that such title will be given on full payment, and compliance with the conditions specified therein. Each payment for lands sold on credit can be made in Construction Bonds or cash; and if in the latter, it is applied to the purchase of such bonds; and the particular tract is at once exempted from liability, and a perfect title given by the trustees — being, in fact, the first conveyance under the authority of the General Government.

The sales are made under the direction of the trustees, and are authorized by an act of the State legislature. The lands thus sold are exempted from taxation by said law of the State till finally paid for.

The trustees execute deeds for all lands sold; and the conveyance by said trustees, in the terms of the law, is "AN ABSOLUTE TITLE IN FEE SIMPLE," and operates "as a release or an acquittance of the particular tract or tracts so sold from all liability or incumbrance on account of said deed of trust, and the issue of said bonds — so as to vest in the purchasers a complete and indefeasible title."

Thus it is seen, that the act of Congress making the grant, SECURES THE TITLE IN PURCHASERS, whatever may be the action of the State; and the law of the State incorporating this Company, while amply securing the bondholders, is alike careful to protect purchasers of the lands, and to secure to them perfect and complete titles in any and every contingency.

JOHN WILSON,
Land Commissioner Illinois Central R. R. Co.

Chicago, January 1, 1857.

OFFICE IN ILLINOIS CENTRAL R. R. DEPOT, CHICAGO, ILLINOIS.

THE RAILROAD ROUTE.

The road commences at Dunleith, a town on the Mississippi River, in the extreme north-west of the State, opposite the city of Dubuque, in Iowa. It passes south 16 miles through Galena, the centre of the great lead region of the West; then easterly 50 miles, after which it takes a southerly course in an almost straight line to Cairo, the extreme southern point of the State. Cairo is situated at the junction of the Ohio and Mississippi Rivers, and is the point at which produce and merchandise are exchanged with the numerous steamboats navigating these great rivers. A branch of the Road leaves the main line at Centralia, 118 miles above Cairo, diverging to the north-east, and terminating at Chicago, on Lake Michigan.

Two daily passenger trains are now running between Dunleith and Cairo, as also between Chicago and Dunleith, and Chicago and Cairo, besides numerous freight trains, as required by the varying business of the Road.

The "Racine and Mississippi," "Dixon Air Line," "Galena and Chicago Union," "Chicago, Burlington, and Quincy," "Rock Island," "Extension Peoria and Oquawka," "Chicago, Alton, and St. Louis," "Great Western," "Terre Haute and Alton," and "Ohio and Mississippi" Railroads, are all now in running order, east and west across the State, and connecting with the "Illinois Central Railroad" at various points. In addition to the above, the "Fort Wayne and Lacon," "La Salle and Lafayette," and "Atlantic and Mississippi Railroads," now in course of construction, also connect with the "Illinois Central," and open up the entire State, at short distances apart. By completing 704 miles of North and South road, this Company has formed connections with all these East and West roads, enabling passengers or freight to reach any part of this State, or the United States, with the greatest expedition.

At every ten miles throughout its entire length, commodious station and freight houses have been erected, and around almost every one of these, villages are rapidly springing up; many of them already containing a population of from 500 to 3500 persons, where three years ago there was not a single house. The

road is built in the most superior manner, and is stocked with the very best locomotive engines, passenger and freight cars. Charges for transportation of passengers and freight are moderate.

LOCATION OF THE LANDS.

The lands are situated on each side of the Railroad between Dunleith and Cairo, on the main line, and Chicago and Centralia, on the Chicago branch. Traversing the entire State from north to south, it therefore passes through a great variety of climates, and purchasers are enabled to suit their inclinations in their selections. The road passes immediately over some of the lands; others vary in distance from it from one to fifteen miles.

PRICES AND TERMS OF PAYMENT

Will vary according to location, quality, distance from stations, villages, &c. &c.

Lands immediately adjoining town sites, and which may soon be subdivided into town lots, or from other causes rise in value with great rapidity, are, of course, held at higher prices, and on somewhat shorter credits; but the *best farming lands*, in the most desirable localities, can be purchased at from $6 to $30 per acre, according to location, and contracts for deeds for the same may be made until further notice, stipulating the purchase money to be made in five payments, each with the succeeding year's interest added in advance. The first payment to be made in two years from the date of the contract, and the others annually thereafter.

Interest will be charged at only three per cent. per annum. As a security for the performance of the contract, the first two years' interest must be paid in advance. For instance, suppose you buy on the 1st of March, 1857, eighty acres of selected prairie land, at $10 per acre, on the foregoing terms. Your account, until a deed is given, would stand thus: —

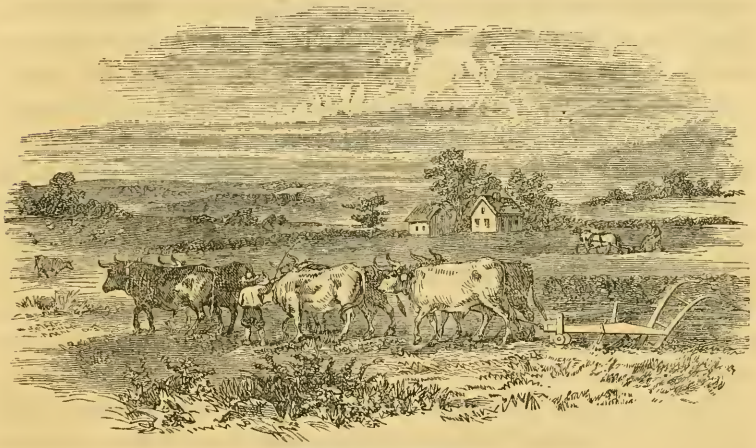
March 1, 1857.	Received contract for a Deed for 80 Acres of Land, at $10 per acre, ($800,) and paid two years' interest, at three per cent. per annum, in advance, ...		$48 00
" " 1859.	Paid first instalment of principal, being one fifth of $800, ...	$160 00	
	One year's Interest in advance on balance due, ($640,) at three per cent. per annum, . . .	19 20	—179 20
" " 1860.	Paid second instalment, being one fifth, as above, ...	160 00	
	One year's Interest in advance on balance due, ($480,) as above, ...	14 40	—174 40
" " 1861.	Paid third instalment, being one fifth, as above,	160 00	
	One year's Interest in advance on balance due, ($320,) as above, ...	9 60	—169 60
" " 1862.	Paid fourth instalment, being one fifth, as above, ...	160 00	
	One year's Interest in advance on balance due, ($160,) as above, ...	4 80	—164 80
" " 1863.	Paid fifth instalment, being one fifth, as above, and received Deed, ...		160 00
	Making the full payment, principal and interest, . . .		$896 00

It must be understood, however, that at least one tenth of the lands purchased shall be fenced and cultivated each year, for five years, so as to have one half of the purchase under improvement by the time the last payment becomes due. It will also be borne in mind, that until the payments are made, and the Deed of conveyance granted, these lands are not subject to taxation, by the 22d Section of the Act of the Legislature, approved February 10th, 1851.

THE VALUE OF THE LAND FOR FARMING PURPOSES.

Illinois is known throughout the United States as the Garden State of the Union, and from the extraordinary fertility of the soil, is justly entitled to the name. Its vast tracts of rich, rolling land were called by the first French settlers "Prairies," which, translated, means "natural meadows," and such they are; almost the whole State is a natural meadow, lying in high, beautifully rolling, or gently undulating Prairies, with a soil of

surpassing and inexhaustible fertility, all ready for the plough, without a rock, stump, or even stone, to interrupt its action. The difficulties experienced in the Eastern States, or in Western timbered States, in bringing lands under cultivation, are unknown here; the soil is readily turned over at the rate of two acres to two acres and a half a day, by a heavy team of horses or two yoke of oxen, or it may be contracted to be worked at from $2 to $3 per acre, and an active practical man can readily cultivate ten acres here, against one in the Eastern or Middle States, taking them as they run, while the yield per acre will be infinitely greater. With *far less labor*, a farm purchased here at the low rates ruling at present, will yield more than one



BREAKING PRAIRIE.

there valued at $100 to $150 per acre. The soil is a dark, rich vegetable mould, varying from two to eight feet in depth, capable of producing any thing in the greatest profusion, which will grow in these latitudes at all, and absolutely inexhaustible in its fertility. Instances could be multiplied of land cropped for twenty to thirty successive years, without the addition of a pound of manure, on which the growth, last season, was just as vigorous and the yield as profuse, as on any other of the series. Crossing the prairies are belts of white oak, hickory, black walnut, ash, and maple timber, of excellent quality, generally following the courses of the streams, varying from half a mile to five miles in width, in many places running far out on the

prairie, or scattered in groves here and there over its surface. The State, as a general thing, *is well watered*, the streams usually running over sandy or stony beds; besides ponds of constant stock-water, which are found in all parts of the prairies. For household purposes, excellent soft water is found at from 10 to 25 feet in depth, generally springing from a stratum of sand. Settlers from the East are always agreeably disappointed in the character of the land in this respect; a prevailing though erroneous impression having gone forth, that on the prairies good water was difficult to be found. The first crop, on newly-broken prairie, is generally *Sod Corn;* as this requires *no cultivation* between planting and gathering, the farmer has ample time to get things comfortable about him, and prepare the land for sowing winter wheat before cold weather comes on. From this sod crop it is the expectation to realize sufficient to pay the cost of breaking, improvements, and general expenses, placing the land in a high state of cultivation on the opening of the second season. It has averaged from thirty to thirty-five bushels per acre, often running up to fifty. Wheat averages from twenty-five to thirty bushels per acre, frequently reaching thirty-eight and forty, and during the past season has been selling at the various railroad stations at from $1 00 to $1 50 per bushel. The second crop of corn averages from sixty to eighty bushels, frequently giving one hundred.

By the great network of railroads, reaching all portions of the State, every farmer is comparatively near a market; since, owing to the competition amongst Chicago buyers, each railroad station becomes a local market for the producer, where Chicago prices, less the expense of transportation, can be readily commanded. Chicago is now *the greatest primary Grain depot in the World.* Thirteen railroads, all of great length, centre here, keeping all parts of this State and the United States in constant and close connection with it. Vessels have loaded at its docks direct for Liverpool, to go through, via the Lakes and St. Lawrence, without any transshipment of cargo; and from its superior harbor and extraordinary natural position, it must ever be the great centre of trade for the West and North-west. To the settler in the central and southern portions of the State, peculiar advantages are opened by the completion of the "Ohio

and Mississippi Railroad," and its connection with the "Illinois Central," enabling him to command the Chicago market to the North, St. Louis to the West, Cincinnati to the East, and the Mississippi towns and New Orleans, via Cairo, to the South. This is a particularly desirable section for producing grain or choice fruit, or raising stock; and is already considerably settled by a most substantial farming population, which has grown up into comfort and affluence by its surprising advance in productiveness and wealth. The soil there is of a warmer nature, the winters mild, and springs early; grain matures several weeks before that in the Genesee Valleys, and reaching the Eastern markets so much in advance of all others, commands the high rates always ruling before the incoming of new crops. Attention is requested to the letters from Messrs. Root, Arter, Gilson, Phillips, and Williams, residents of this section, as illustrative of what may be there accomplished.

Land may be selected in accordance with the individual tastes of purchasers; some sections of country are best adapted to corn, others to wheat, some producing both equally well; some, again, seem peculiarly favorable to stock raising, others to fruit growing or fancy gardening; some portions are heavily timbered; on some timber just covers one corner, or is scattered in occasional groups or groves. Frequently, in a single section of 640 acres, all these qualities are combined, together with living water; and the settler finds a home, only requiring a moderate expenditure of labor to establish him comfortably for life.

The system of long credits and low rates of interest established by the Company is estimated, by experienced farmers in the State, as being worth, to the actual settler, from thirty to fifty per cent. per annum, by enabling him to invest his ready money immediately in the cultivation of the land, so that from his being able to take up so much more than the man who locks up his funds in a cash purchase, and the immense returns from land placed under cultivation, he soon finds himself far in advance. In proof of this, instances could be multiplied, of parties who have cleared the entire cost of their lands over and over again from a single crop; and the reader is referred to the letters appended to this pamphlet, for numerous examples of the more average success of prairie farming operations.

ADVANTAGES OF SETTLING IN ILLINOIS.

Settlers should bear in mind, that the country west of the Mississippi is not yet opened by railroads, and cannot be for several years to come; also that the lands along the watercourses and proposed lines of railroads have been, to a large extent, entered by speculators, and are held at high rates, and almost invariably *for cash*, or a large portion cash, and but short credit on the remainder — the farmer, therefore, is either obliged to pay a *high cash price* for his land, or to locate at some distance from a market, thereby incurring great expense in the transportation of his material and crops; also that Chicago, situated as it is at the head of Lake navigation, must, necessarily, continue to be the centring point for all surplus produce raised, west, north-west, or south-west from it, since, until some channel of transportation is opened cheaper than that of the Lakes and canals, all raw materials must seek that route as the only profitable outlet to a final market. Now, the very difference realized in the sales of crops, in such a State as Illinois, opened as it is with railroads through every part, and markets at every station, over those ruling west of the river, would, in a few years' time, pay the first cost of the land over and over again, and, in the end, leave an estate vastly more valuable, from its being so much nearer a market, in the centre of a well-improved, highly-cultivated State, and forever clear of the expense which must be incurred by the transshipment in crossing the Mississippi, and the freights to be paid on a greater distance of transportation.

To illustrate this in detail, it will be necessary to enter into the following calculations: —

Allowing, as a fair average farm, 160 acres of land; appropriating 40 acres to building, orchard, and pasture grounds, upon which may also be raised the vegetables for the family, and part of the provender for the stock; 20 acres for mowing; 30 acres for wheat; and 70 acres for corn; and assuming that the wheat and corn crops are the only ones from which the farmer will have any surplus, — and we probably have as fair a basis as can be gained for the argument. With fair farming, 20 bushels of wheat, and 50 bushels of corn, to the acre, will make a very low estimate, being not by any means a fair average yield,

upon these rich prairie lands; but take these for the crops, and 30 acres in wheat, at 20 bushels per acre, is . . 600 bushels. 70 acres in corn, at 50 bushels per acre, is . . . 3500 bushels. Retaining 200 bushels of wheat for seed and family use, and 900 bushels of corn for working stock, and fattening animals for family use, both of which allowances are undoubtedly sufficiently large, the farmer has left for market 400 bushels of wheat, and 2600 bushels of corn, — in all, 3000 bushels of grain. This being a strictly agricultural country, it must depend upon an eastern or foreign market for the sale of its surplus produce; and therefore a bushel of grain upon the farm is worth just so much less than the cost of carrying it to market. The cost of transporting wheat or corn by railroad is about 8 cents per bushel per hundred miles, and for meats, about 15 cents per 100 pounds per hundred miles. The average cost per bushel for transporting wheat or corn to Buffalo, from Chicago, by way of the Lakes, will not exceed 7 cents during the season of navigation, and from Cleveland to Buffalo it is about 4 cents per bushel.

The comparative advantages of different points in the West, for farming purposes, being the object which it is desirable to arrive at, it will be necessary, in making a comparison, to take for one locality the vicinity of Columbus, Ohio; for another, a point 80 miles west, north-west, or south-west of Chicago, Illinois, on the line of any of the railroads diverging from that centre; for another, Iowa City, the capital of Iowa, 242 miles west of Chicago; and the other, Fort Des Moines, Iowa, which is 367 miles west of Chicago, via the Rock Island Railroad, now completed to Iowa City, and the only road in running order west of the Mississippi and north of Missouri.

From Columbus, Ohio, to Cleveland, 125 miles, at 8 cents per hundred miles, by railroad, the cost of transportation would be 10 cents per bushel; from thence to Buffalo, via Lake Erie, 4 cents; thence to New York, 12 cents; total, 26 cents.

From the point 80 miles from Chicago, by railroad, it would be 7 cents to Chicago; from thence to Buffalo, via the Lakes, 7 cents; thence to New York, via Erie Canal, 12 cents; total, 26 cents.

From Iowa City to Chicago, 242 miles, the cost would be 19

cents per bushel; thence to Buffalo, 7 cents; thence to New York, 12 cents; total, 38 cents.

From Fort Des Moines to Chicago, 367 miles, the cost would be 29 cents; thence to Buffalo, 7 cents; thence to New York, 12 cents; total, 48 cents; and in like ratio for any distance, greater or less.

The value, therefore, of the crops, upon a farm of 160 acres, at Columbus, Ohio, and upon one of the same size, 80 miles from Chicago, are equal; while there is a difference in favor of the latter over the one at Iowa City of $360 annually, and over the one at Fort Des Moines of $660 annually. Three hundred and sixty dollars will pay an interest of six per cent. upon a valuation of $6000, and six hundred and sixty dollars is the interest, at the same rate, upon $11,000. It therefore follows, that a farm of 160 acres, appropriated to raising grain, within 80 miles of Chicago, is worth just as much as one of the same size at Columbus, Ohio, and $6000 more than one at Iowa City, which is equal to $37 50 per acre; and $11,000 more than one at Fort Des Moines, or $68 75 per acre; on the assumption, also, that the railroads are there to-day, and the settler has every convenience for transporting his crops — an assumption, by the way, of which the farmers there would be very happy to feel a little more assured.

This calculation is based upon the presumption that the lands in the different localities mentioned are of equal productive capacity, and fully sustains the argument, so far as it relates to that tract of country west of Lake Michigan, in the same parallel of latitude; but in going southward in Illinois, the milder climate and increased fertility of the soil more than compensate, in shorter winters and heavier crops, for the difference in distance from the Lakes. In Central and Southern Illinois is found the finest wheat zone in the Union, as well as the best soil and climate for fruits. It is only necessary for the intelligent farmer to pass through these sections of the State, — visiting the residents on their farms, examining the qualities and productions of the soil, looking at the rich magnificence of the prairies, and the arrangement of the alternation of timber and arable land, at the same time taking into consideration the resources which art, industry, and capital have brought to bear

towards the development of the country, placing it, as it were, in the great highway of our Union, — to become convinced that these sections must eventually become the garden of our country, and the granary of the world.

The opinion prevails, to some extent, that those lands remote from market may be made equally valuable by being appropriated to stock raising. But upon this subject very crude and erroneous ideas have been formed, in the minds of many, from the want of correct information, and judging from the examples of a few individuals who have made themselves distinguished, and amassed great fortunes, by *dealing in* and *fattening*, rather than by *raising* stock. The history of the operations of those gentlemen in this State, who, from their extensive transactions, have received the appellation of the "Cattle Kings," will show, that they realized their great profits through far other means than the breeding and raising of cattle. In the first place, they are men of great intellectual sagacity and energy of character, and would have made wide reputations in almost any other department of life. They located in the interior of our State at an early day, when that region was far remote from market, and thinly settled, and a wide range of richest pasturage was still open and unoccupied, and free for their vast herds to graze upon. The finest of cattle could be bought for very low prices, it not being profitable for those who raised but few to drive them away in small droves; and it was the custom of these gentlemen to buy up all the choice young cattle, over a large extent of country, sometimes going beyond the limits of the State for their purchases, herding them upon the wide prairie ranges, and fattening them upon corn, which they could buy, at that time, for a dime or twelve cents the bushel, or even for a less price, by buying it standing in the shock, and having it fed on the ground; then, when in good condition, removing them (in large droves) to Eastern or Southern markets, where large prices were realized from them. And it must be remembered that it was only after long years of unremitting labor, trial, and privation, with these, to them great advantages for their business, that they realized so great returns.

But the opening of railroads through, and the establishing of markets in, these once almost inaccessible localities, has mate-

rially affected that branch of business. The prairies have become occupied by settlers, and turned to tillage; and whereas, formerly, corn could be bought at just what price the buyer was pleased to give, scarcely ever exceeding a dime a bushel, it now seldom commands less than from forty to fifty cents.

It is unnecessary to remind the intelligent farmer that the *growing* of stock is a work of time; considerable capital is required, with intimate knowledge of the business, where it is undertaken extensively; and unless a large tract of land is purchased, and heavily stocked, in the commencement, very little that is satisfactory can be realized from it, as an exclusive business. For it requires long waiting, for the slow multiplication from a small number of animals, before there is much return. And at this day, the most that a farmer of moderate means could hope to do here, in from three to five years, would be to raise sufficient stock to consume one half of his surplus corn. And it is indispensable, to a small farmer, that wheat raising should be introduced, for a proper distribution of farm labor through the season. To carry out the calculation, however, from this point of view, it will be necessary to alter the figures to some extent, appropriating part of the surplus corn crop to fattening the stock. Therefore, assuming that eight bushels of corn will make 100 pounds of beef or pork, — which cannot vary much from the result of actual experiment, — the surplus of the corn crop upon the farm of 160 acres, supposing it to be cultivated as before stated, would be 2600 bushels. And, as we have said, the farmer could not raise stock enough within the first five years to consume more than one half of this, he would therefore have 1300 bushels to put into meat, and 1300 bushels of corn for market. The proceeds of the farm would therefore be as follows: 1300 bushels of corn; 16,250 pounds of meat, and 400 bushels of wheat.

As, in the former calculation, the value of the produce of the farm in the vicinity of Columbus, Ohio, and of the one eighty miles from Chicago, were equal, they would also be equal in this case. As the cost of transporting the products of the farm from the three localities west of Chicago would be the same after reaching that place, I shall only estimate the cost of carrying them there from those different places.

From the point 80 miles from Chicago:

400 bushels of Wheat, at 7 cents,	$28 00
1300 bushels of Corn, at 7 cents,	91 00
16250 pounds Meat, at 12 cents per 100 pounds,	19 50
Total cost of products from farm 80 miles west, to Chicago,	$138 50

From Iowa City, 242 miles west of Lake Michigan, the cost would be:

400 bushels of Wheat, at 19 cents,	$76 00
1300 bushels of Corn, at 19 cents,	247 00
16250 pounds Meat, at 36 cents per 100 pounds,	58 50
Total from Iowa City to Chicago,	$381 50

From the farm at Fort Des Moines, 367 miles west, to Chicago:

400 bushels of Wheat, at 29 cents,	$116 00
1300 bushels of Corn, at 29 cents,	377 00
16250 pounds Meat, at 55 cents per 100 pounds,	89 37
Total from Fort Des Moines to Chicago,	$582 37

The difference in favor of a farm 80 miles west of Chicago over the one at Iowa City, is, therefore, $243 00; and over that at Fort Des Moines, $443 87. $243 00 is the interest, at 6 per cent., on $4050 00; and $443 87 is the interest, at the same rate, on $7397 00.

From these data, it is apparent that a farm 80 miles from Chicago is worth $4050, or $25 31 per acre, more than one at Iowa City; and more than one at Fort Des Moines by $7397, or $46 23 per acre. And this difference is to accumulate against the settler each and every year, so long as he remains there. It must also be remembered, that a very considerable local demand, caused by emigration, and passing travel, has, in territories so thinly settled as those west of the Mississippi, and where so little cultivation has been in progress, prevented the earlier settlers from depending at all on any market outside their doors. But as the country settles up, all produce not required for home consumption must necessarily seek the Lakes for its outlet; and it is to that time the prudent farmer must look for the value of his investment, judging for himself whether it is the course of wisdom to entail this enormous annual drain upon the earnings of himself and his children, not for to-day, nor to-morrow, but for all time.

ADVANTAGES FOR MECHANICS, LABORERS, &c., &c.

THERE is work enough for all who can come; towns and villages are springing up with unexampled rapidity; great districts of country are being settled, and internal improvements keeping pace with the general advance of the population and wealth. For many years to come, in all human probability, this rate of progression and increase must be sustained, and mechanical labor continue to be in constant demand. The prudent, industrious laborer can also depend upon continued employment at fair wages; and if economical, may readily save sufficient from the proceeds of a year's work to make the advance interest payment required by the Company, to secure a piece of land for his farm; thus starting upon his career to independence and probable wealth.

MINERALS, COAL, LUMBER, &c., &c.



THE Company owns valuable tracts of Iron and Lead Ores, also Coal beds of immense richness. The Coal and Iron lie in immediate proximity, and may be worked to great advantage. There are also forests of the most valuable White Oak, Black Walnut, Hickory, and Cypress timber, and excellent opportunities for erecting steam mills are open at points where a great local demand may be secured, as well as railroad facilities for conveying the lumber to all parts of the State.

When the amount of building now going on throughout the State is taken into consideration, a glance at such opportunities must be sufficient for the practical operator.

COST OF MOVING TO CHICAGO.

ROUTES AND FARES FROM THE EASTERN CITIES TO CHICAGO.

FROM NEW YORK.

	First Class.	Emigrant.
Via Hudson River, or New York and Harlem, New York Central, Great Western, (Canada,) and Michigan Central Railroads, (distance 950 miles,) affording the traveller an opportunity of visiting Niagara Falls, and the Great Suspension Bridge over the Niagara River, without deviation from his route, ...	$22 00	$10 00
Via Hudson River, or New York and Harlem, New York Central, Buffalo and Erie, Cleveland and Erie, Cleveland and Toledo, and Michigan Southern Railroads, (distance 963 miles,)	22 00	10 00
Via New York and Erie to Niagara Falls, Great Western, (Canada,) and Michigan Central Railroads, (distance 960 miles,)	22 00	10 00
Via New York and Erie, Buffalo and Erie, Cleveland and Erie, Cleveland and Toledo, and Michigan Southern Railroads, (distance 960 miles,)	22 00	10 00
Via Camden and Amboy, Pennsylvania Central, and Pittsburg, Fort Wayne and Chicago Railroads, (distance 920 miles,)	22 00	10 00

In summer, passengers can take steamers on the Hudson River, connecting with the Erie Railroad at Newburg, or the New York Central at Albany, and again at Buffalo, connecting with the splendid Lake steamers for Detroit or Toledo, where they take the Michigan Central or Michigan Southern Railroad for Chicago. Fares by these routes are a few dollars less than by all railroad.

FROM BOSTON.

Via Western, New York Central, Great Western, (Canada,) and Michigan Central Railroads, (distance 1010 miles,) .	$24 00	$12 00

FROM PHILADELPHIA.

Via Pennsylvania Central and Pittsburg, Fort Wayne and Chicago Railroads, (distance 818 miles,)	20 00	9 00
Via Reading, Catawissa, Williamsport and Elmira, Elmira and Canandaigua, Canandaigua and Niagara Falls, Great Western, (Canada,) and Michigan Central Railroads, (distance 960 miles,)	20 00	

FROM BALTIMORE.

Via Northern Central Railway to Harrisburg, thence by Pennsylvania Central, and Pittsburg, Fort Wayne, and Chicago Railroads, (distance 797 miles,)	19 50	9 00
Via Baltimore and Ohio, and Pittsburg, Fort Wayne, and Chicago Railroads, (distance 820 miles,)	20 00	

In summer, the first class fares are generally from $2 to $4 less than the above rates. Children over four and under twelve years of age, half price; under four years, free. Extra baggage over one hundred pounds, $2 per hundred.

Freight on farming tools and furniture, about $1 50 per hundred pounds. Such articles should be boxed in packages not too large, well hooped, and plainly marked with paint, and *not* with cards.

Upon the opening of navigation in the spring, a very pleasant route to Chicago is afforded by taking the steamers on Lake Ontario from Ogdensburg, Cape Vincent, or Oswego, for Toronto, thence via Ontario, Simcoe and Huron Railway, (94 miles,) to Collingwood, and thence by Lake steamers through Georgian Bay, across Lake Huron and down Lake Michigan, stopping at the Island of Mackinac and the principal towns on the Lake, in Wisconsin. First class fares by this route, $15 from Ogdensburg, and $13 from Cape Vincent, or Oswego, which include meals and state rooms on steamers, and the railroad fare from Toronto to Collingwood. Emigrant fares, $8 to $10.

The "Railroad Guide" Map accompanying this pamphlet, shows all the routes and their principal connections.

PRICE CURRENT FOR CORN, WHEAT, AND OATS,
In the Chicago Market, during the Year 1854.

MONTHS.	CORN.	SPRING WHEAT.	WINTER WHEAT.	OATS.
January, ...	33 to 40	93 to 95	106 to 115	26 to 26½
February, . . .	45 " 46	117 " 120	130 " 140	30 " 31
March, ...	49 " 50	104 " 106	120 " 130	27 " 28½
April, ...	43 " 44	100 " 102	112 " 120	26½ " 27
May, ...	43 " 45	125 " 130	140 " 150	30 " 31
June, ...	45 " 46	128 " 130	140 " 150	30 " 31½
July, ...	50 " 51	95 " 100	115 " 120	31 " 33
August, ...	54 " 55	95 " 110	140 " 150	29 " 30
September, . . .	60 " 61	100 " 120	130 " 140	32 " 33
October, ...	54 " 55	90 " 105	130 " 140	33 " 34
November, . . .	50 " 52	120 " 125	130 " 145	32 " 33
December, . . .	46 " 47	100 " 110	112 " 125	23 " 28

PRICE CURRENT FOR CORN, WHEAT, AND OATS,
In the Chicago Market, during the Year 1855.

MONTHS.	CORN.	SPRING WHEAT.	WINTER WHEAT	OATS.
January, ...	48 to 50	113 to 120	128 to 135	27 to 28
February, . . .	48 " 50	115 " 120	125 " 135	27 " 28
March, ...	50 " 55	115 " 130	125 " 140	34 " 35
April, ...	55 " 62	135 " 150	150 " 187½	40 " 48
May, ...	72 " 78	150 " 170	160 " 175	45 " 52
June, ...	70 " 80	150 " 162	158 " 165	40 " 48
July, ...	70 " 75	150 " 156	155 " 165	45 " 50
August, ...	63 " 68	110 " 125	133 " 140	26 " 30
September, . . .	63 " 68	103 " 130	120 " 155	26 " 30
October, ...	63 " 68	128 " 160	155 " 180	25 " 28
November, . . .	60 " 65	145 " 152	155 " 162	26 " 31
December, . . .	50 " 55	128 " 136	135 " 145	26 " 29

PRICE CURRENT FOR CORN, WHEAT, AND OATS, In the Chicago Market, during the Year 1856.

MONTHS.	CORN.	SPRING WHEAT.	RED WINTER WHEAT.	WHITE WINTER WHEAT.	OATS.
January, . . .	40 to 45	120 to 130	125 to 135		22 to 28
February, . .	40 " 45	115 " 125	120 " 130	No White Winter Wheat was offered uutil July.	24 " 26
March, ...	38 " 42	105 " 115	115 " 125		27 " 28
April, ...	35 " 40	100 " 110	110 " 120		29 " 30
May, ...	35 " 38	105 " 115	120 " 130		28 " 29
June, ...	28 " 35	98 " 110	105 " 115		24 " 28
July, ...	30 " 48	100 " 110	112 " 125	125 to 130	28 " 32
August, ...	40 " 46	100 " 110	115 " 125	130 " 145	30 " 35
September, . .	36 " 43	95 " 105	110 " 120	120 " 128	29 " 31
October, . . .	33 " 38	83 " 103	100 " 115	110 " 120	26 " 28
November, . .	30 " 38	76 " 90	88 " 100	95 " 110	26 " 36
December, . .	35 " 40	76 " 85	88 " 95	100 " 105	30 " 36

Prices for produce generally decline in the Chicago market on the closing of lake and canal navigation, the surplus then seeking the southern outlet, via Cairo, or bought subject to storage expenses.

WHAT ARTICLES IT WILL BE BEST TO BRING OUT FROM THE EAST.

Furniture. — Highly finished and costly furniture is mostly all brought from the East, and sold at a considerable advance in the West; but all the plain, substantial articles which are in general use in farm houses, can be procured here nearly, if not quite, as cheap as at the East.

Agricultural Implements. — The smaller kinds are more extensively made at the East; but ploughs, reaping, mowing, and threshing machines are extensively made at the West. The difference in the cost of the former, however, is not sufficient to warrant the trouble, delay, and expense necessarily attendant on forwarding small parcels, and the settler will find it much more economical, in the end, to purchase all such articles here.

Stores, of all kinds, can be bought at reasonable prices; and, in short, the emigrant to Illinois now *needs to bring* with him only such personal baggage as the ordinary demands of travel require.



COTTAGE.

Houses can be contracted for in Chicago, and put up on the lands, any where within reasonable distance of the railroad, in less than thirty days from the date of order. They will cost from $250 upwards, according to the taste and requirements of the purchaser.

Responsible parties are engaged in this business here, and the settler avoids the principal inconvenience heretofore supposed to be indispensable in removing to the West.

Cows and Oxen. — Good milch Cows can be bought at from $20 to $30. Good, well-broke working Oxen can be had at from $50 to $150 per yoke.

Horses vary from $100 to $150 each. At these prices, good, strong-limbed, healthy animals can be purchased, suitable for farms. They are extensively and cheaply raised on the prairies, for the eastern markets, and afford large profit.

FENCING.

An abundant supply of lumber, or timber for building or fencing, can be easily procured; but the Osage Orange plant has been extensively introduced, and is rapidly supplanting all other kinds of fencing. Being at the same time more permanent and secure than any other, and highly ornamental, it must soon be universally employed. It can be raised by contract at

from fifty to seventy-five cents per rod, parties making a business of preparing the ground, setting out the plants, and cultivating and trimming them until a perfect hedge is produced for the settler. For this, one third of the contract money is paid upon the setting out of the plants, and the balance when the fence is completed, without interest. Farmers preferring to raise plants from the seed, or procure them from nurseries, tending the hedge themselves, can procure their fence more economically than by contracting.



REAPING AND THRESHING WITH MACHINERY BY CONTRACT.

Reaping Machines are almost altogether used at the West. They cost $100 to $150. They will cut fourteen acres of wheat per day. Contracts for reaping are made at 62½ cents per acre. The contractor furnishes a driver, raker, and horses; the farmer finds binders and shockers.

Threshing Machines will thresh 300 bushels per day. It is generally contracted to be done at 4 to 5 cents per bushel, the contractor furnishing four horses and three hands, the farmer four more horses and five more hands, making in all eight hands, viz., one driver, one feeder, one measurer, one to pitch sheaves, one to cut bands, and three to take away straw.

FUEL.—WOOD, COAL.

Great misconception exists at the East in regard to fuel, the want of which *is not* a matter of inconvenience to our farmers. Wood is delivered at the stations along the line of the road at from $3 to $4 per cord. In the central and southern portions of the State, it is afforded in some places as low as $2 per cord. Bituminous coal *of the best quality* is found at various points along the road, and sells at from $1 50 to $4 per ton. Mines are now being worked, at convenient distances, all over the State, and the completion of the various East and West Railroads guarantees a constant supply at reasonable rates. Old residents in the State consider this coal more economical as fuel, even when they have to haul it a considerable distance, than to cut wood on their own farms.

TOWN LOTS.

At about every ten miles along the road, the Company have erected large and commodious passenger and freight houses.



Around most of these, dwellings and stores have been erected since the completion of the railroad. Merchants and mechanics are gathering at these stations, to accommodate the wants of the rapidly growing farming population surrounding them. At most of the stations, the Company own the town sites. Lots are offered, on extremely liberal terms, to any who wish to purchase, and build on them.

Great opportunities are offered at these various stations for embarking in the mercantile business, dealing in lumber or

grain, pork and beef packing, or in a general produce business. A country so fruitful and productive, with a population rapidly filling it up, must make each and all of these profitable.



ILLINOIS

Is now in the start of its great advance towards becoming the first producing State in the Union. Having Lake Michigan on one side, furnishing a constant outlet for its produce, the Mississippi to the west, with its tributaries, the Illinois and Rock Rivers, both navigable streams, running far into its interior, the Wabash on its eastern borders, and Ohio on the south, the natural facilities would seem unequalled in the world. But added to these is a system of internal improvements unsurpassed by any other of the States. The Illinois and Michigan Canal intersects it from east to west, and numerous railroads cross and recross in every direction. Its hamlets are becoming towns, its towns cities, and its vast prairies occupied and cultivated by a most substantial, intelligent, and respectable farming population. Every thing seems to be flourishing, and wealth and general prosperity rewarding every adventure. For young men, wearied with struggling against the competitions and difficulties of ad-

vancement in the older States, this seems a field peculiarly suited to their aims and ambitions; requiring but a moderate investment of capital, large returns await the prudent and industrious operator.

The reader can see, from the perusal of the letters accompanying this pamphlet, what has been accomplished by others, starting under far more adverse circumstances than now exist; and when, upon such a soil as this has been proved to be, attended with all the facilities, natural and artificial, which have been brought to bear upon it, the more scientific and economical system of agriculture pursued in older countries is directed, the reality must surpass the most sanguine expectations at present entertained.

FURTHER INFORMATION.

Sectional Maps of the Lands of the Company, showing the precise position of every piece of land in various parts of the State, owned by the Company, can be had at the Chicago Land Office, by remitting fifty cents in postage stamps. Plats of their towns, at the various stations throughout the State, can also be seen at that office.

For any further information, apply personally or by letter, in English, French, or German, to

JOHN WILSON,
Land Commissioner,

Or to

JOSEPH B. AUSTIN,
Registrar,

Illinois Central R. R. Co., Chicago.

Land Department, Illinois Central R. R. Co.,
Chicago, January 1, 1857.

Office, in Illinois Central R. R. Depot Buildings.

LETTERS IN REGARD TO SOIL, ETC.

LETTER FROM G. W. GILSON, ESQ.

CENTRALIA, MARION CO., ILLINOIS,
December 20, 1855.

Hon. JOHN WILSON,
Land Commissioner.

Dear Sir: You have requested my views in regard to the advantages and prospects of Illinois; and it affords me great pleasure to be able to answer you. I have resided in the State for nineteen years, and may, therefore, be considered as possessing some knowledge of the subject I am writing about. I have seen many changes, and the results of many operations for advancing our position. I have seen the dreary times when our farmers had to live in isolated positions, haul their crops long distances to a market, and then sell at low rates, taking goods in exchange as part payment; and I see them now with railroads passing all around them, and markets established within the convenient reach of every one of them. Large as has been the accession to our population during a few years past, in my opinion the coming season will show an immensely greater increase still. The maps and advertisements of your Company have found their way into the hands of eager men, who, from the sterile hills of the Atlantic seaboard, view with amazement the rapid progress of this mighty valley of the West. The tide of prosperous commerce, which is sending its rich treasures to the East, from our ocean of agricultural wealth, in its return brings back the necessary means of increase; and thus each year is destined to add to the almost boundless development of the resources of our State.

Illinois is by far the most important agricultural State in the Union, and affords the greatest inducements to emigrants. It has more acres of good arable, and fewer acres of waste land than any other State. It has, along its borders, and through its area, more miles of navigable streams; one of the largest and most important canals in the world, connecting the Northern lakes with the Mississippi River; and railroads in every direction, forming, as it were, a network of iron over its rich and

fertile prairies. Mines of iron, coal, lead, and other minerals, underlie these beautiful savannas; and a salubrious, even climate makes redolent with health the happy families who here found their happy homes.

Iowa, though much talked of at the East, can hold no comparison with our "Prairie State." Settlers going over there find, to their cost, that the land speculator has been before them, selecting the desirable locations, and holding them at *cash prices* equal to, and often far beyond, the credit rates in Illinois. Along each stream, all possible future railroad routes, and near every market station, he has been there first, and the settler must press further, further back, and doom himself to hard, unprofitable labor, in an isolated position for years to come. *Land speculators* will be the great curse of Iowa for a whole generation to come. They are locking up the resources of the State, preventing its improvement, and constituting themselves a perfect pest to the *actual settler*. Large tracts of land have been entered, and are now held by foreign capitalists, who intend to keep them out of the market until the improvements of others have enabled them to realize immense profits. Suppose a farmer from the East to make a selection in the midst of one of these tracts; he can have no knowledge of how the land around him may be held, and would have to waste his whole lifetime, adding to the wealth of another, from whom he derives no reciprocal advantage, but, on the contrary, the greatest injury. Again, the prices are actually higher over there than here. I have known of lands, thirty miles from a market, with no timber or stream within ten miles, to be held at from $10 to $12 per acre — one half cash, and the balance in six months or a year, with ten per cent. interest. The settler there would have to haul his lumber and building materials thirty miles, giving, to start with, $22 and upwards for even ordinary lumber, bring his produce thirty miles again to market, and then receive 25 to 33 per cent. less for his crops, than at the same time the farmer in Central or Southern Illinois would be readily commanding. Allowing, again, that Iowa was well supplied with railroads now, (though such a state of things cannot be expected in less than ten years' time,) and allowing that the settler could at once secure a good location at fair prices, still his neighbor in Illinois would have the advantage over him; for Chicago is now, and must ever be, the centre and gathering point for all the produce West, North-west, and South-west of it, and will consequently fix the standard price for this whole region of country; and all the producer can hope to get for his crops will be *Chicago prices, less the cost of transportation;* leaving the balance always against the farmer, as he recedes from the centre of trade.

Again, in Iowa he will have to pay far higher for all agricultural tools and machinery; all materials for building, as well as the little luxuries

of life; find it difficult, if not impossible, to educate his children; and in short, for many years suffer all the social, agricultural, and general privations and wants of an entirely new State.

Now turn to Illinois. Here we have such a network of railroads — not on paper, but in actual operation — that it is almost impossible for a settler to get many miles away from one. At every station his produce will command *hard cash*, at nearly Chicago rates. He is in the midst of the most flourishing State in the Union; in a perfectly healthy climate, with a rich soil, plenty of fine timber and good water, abounding in coal and minerals; and where he can obtain the best of land on long credits, with low rates of interest and easy payments. How much better, then, to settle here! For the next ten years he can make far more per annum than by going West of the Mississippi; and even should he pay a few dollars more per acre, on a long credit, the difference in receipts on a single crop would more than repay it.

By the terms upon which your Company disposes of its lands, the speculator is shut out. Let the settler take this into consideration; let him look at the advantages of being surrounded by actual farmers only, who will aid immediately in making roads, building churches and schools, and all other local improvements; let him study your terms for lands; here he can buy on your six years' credit, only pay three per cent. per annum for the use of his money, and at once invest his means in cultivating the purchase. So he can afford to buy double the amount in Illinois that he can in Iowa; and before his payments are completed, realize at least two hundred per cent. on the money thus used in cultivation.

By far the most valuable and desirable portion of our State has as yet received but little attention; and many of our best farming lands are still held at very low figures. The reason for this is, that the tide of emigration, years ago, before railroads were even thought of out here, poured in from the Lakes and Northern Indiana, seeking the Illinois and Rock Rivers to furnish an outlet for their crops. Year after year settlers came along, locating in the neighborhood of these pioneers, and thus forming quite large settlements, which have ever since attracted more or less of the passing emigrants. Some of these centres were also formed in Southern Illinois, but not having the large navigable streams so near at hand, did not progress so rapidly as the others. Now, however, the streams cease to be essential, the railroad having furnished the necessary outlet; and these fairest sections of the whole State lie in rich luxuriance, inviting the energy of the farmer, only to return to him their choicest rewards. Southern Illinois has more timber, and a soil better adapted to the production of wheat, corn, fruits, or grasses, than the

northern parts of the State. The winters are far shorter and less severe; and while by railroad the settler finds easy access to Chicago and the East, he is also in close proximity to the uninterrupted navigation of the South. Our prairies are not so large as those in the North, are more gently undulating, well watered by small streams, and have the timber scattered over them to better advantage. Our climate is mild, regular, and healthy. We are exempt from sudden and severe changes, and able to pursue farming operations to far greater advantage and vastly greater profit. Our stock requires but little housing or feeding up, and can therefore be raised more economically, while we have constantly the choice of the four great markets, Chicago, St. Louis, Cincinnati, and New Orleans, for the disposal of our produce. If Eastern farmers would give this section a fair and full examination, I am persuaded they would settle here at once; and I know the results of their operations could not fail to be highly satisfactory.

Such, sir, are the results of my observation and experience in Illinois and the West. They are at your disposal if you think fit to use them.

While I remain,

Yours, very truly,

GEORGE W. GILSON.

LETTER FROM B. G. ROOTS, ESQ.

TAMAROA, PERRY CO., ILLINOIS,
December 27, 1855.

Hon. JOHN WILSON,

Land Commissioner.

Dear Sir: In March, 1837, I left Massachusetts for Illinois. During the first eighteen months, my profession of civil engineer required me to be constantly in or near the *swamp and overflowed lands*, in the extreme south-easterly portions of this State. I did not, however, find even that section as sickly as I had expected, though an occasional shake admonished me that while engaged in that occupation, my family had better remain in comfortable quarters at home. Seeing that this State offered superior advantages to men with only a small capital, I was anxious to locate in it; but as fully determined to run no risk as to the health of my family. After extensive examinations, I selected the tract upon which I now reside, and removed my family from the East to it. I have since become well acquainted with all counties south and east of the Illinois River, and have been in most of the counties in the south half of Wisconsin, but have seen none healthier than this. I went through the

country above spoken of before we had railroads. I travelled with my own conveyance, and stopped at the farm houses at night; every house was a *traveller's home* — for there were few taverns. From all that I have seen, I fully believe that the prairies in the south part of this State are quite as healthy as any other section. We find abundance of good water by digging — the average depth of wells in this vicinity being from 12 to 25 feet. The prairie furnishes excellent pasturage; but it dries up earlier in the fall (unless we have more rain than usual) than tame pastures. This year, cattle did well upon the prairies until late in December; but it is generally expedient to feed some from the middle of November until the latter part of March. A pasture of blue grass will sustain, in good condition, mules, colts, sheep, dry cows and steers, ten months in the year. As we had no means of exporting wheat until the Illinois Central Railroad opened an outlet, it was not sown extensively until the fall of 1854; that sowing averaged from 20 to 25 bushels per acre, of most excellent wheat, most of which was manufactured into flour, and sold in the city of New York, before the crop in the northern parts of the State was even cut.

Fencing is the hardest work which a new settler here has to perform. Good white oak rails, laid up in fence, where it is required, are worth from $2 to $3 per hundred. To lessen the cost of fencing, it is very desirable for several friends to settle together, so that the land at first may be enclosed in one common field. 4704 rails will fence 20 acres; 6720 will fence 40 acres; 13,440 rails will fence 160 acres; 28,880 rails will fence one section, or 640 acres.

The spring following that when the prairie sod is broken up, a Maclura hedge should be set out around the portion chosen by each individual. Many of my neighbors make their own hedges; but as a man can always dispose of his labor to advantage here, I believe it cheaper to buy it than to make it. Hedging has become a trade, to which a class of men devote themselves. They furnish the plants, set them in the ground, and cultivate them for four years, at 15 cents per rod a year; making the whole cost of hedge 60 cents per rod. At the expiration of four years, when the last payment upon the hedge is due, it is a perfect barrier against bulls, pigs, and all other animals. The rails of which the outside fence was made are then sold to somebody else, or used to make interior fences. They will last for twenty years, and I know not how much longer. Sixteen years ago, I purchased an *old improvement.* Most of the rails with which it was enclosed are still good.

New prairie is broken to advantage from the 15th of April to the 10th of July; but I prefer to have it broken from the 10th of May to the 10th of June. That which is broken previous to the 10th of June, I plant in

corn, which yields from 20 to 45 bushels per acre. As it receives no cultivation after it is planted, it is more affected by good or bad seasons than crops which are cultivated. That which is broken up after the 10th of June is sown with wheat in September, and always yields well. Corn which is planted before the 20th of May is often cut up, and wheat sown on the same ground in September or October; but wheat which is sown so late is sure not to produce as well as that sown early. Oats do not do very well upon prairie until the ground has been cultivated two or three years; but the year following that on which it is first broken up, it is in excellent condition to produce wheat, barley, corn, flax seed, castor beans, and every kind of garden vegetable which is raised in New England, and excellent sweet potatoes in abundance.

With a good plough, and one pair of good horses, one man can break up one and a half acres per day of the new prairie. A good yoke of cattle will break up nearly the same quantity of ground. Two good yoke of cattle will break two acres per day. Previous to 1853, the customary price for breaking prairie was from $1 50 to $2 per acre; but in 1853, the common price was $2 50 per acre; and, as the demand for labor always exceeds the supply, I think it will not be less than this sum for several years to come.

Common farm hands receive from $110 to $130 per annum, and their board. I employ a good practical working farmer, who takes charge of every thing pertaining to the farm. I furnish him house, garden, and fruit trees, free of rent, and pay him $250 per annum. He, with the aid of a boy twelve years of age, five breeding mares, and $10 worth of occasional aid, attends to forty acres in corn, ten in wheat, ten in oats, six in flax, (cultivated only for the seed,) ten in meadow of old ground, and breaks up and plants in sod corn twenty acres of new prairie. We commence planting corn from the 1st to the 20th of April, and finish from the 1st to the 10th of June. I once raised an excellent crop planted on the 23d of June. I cut up my corn stalks near the ground, before the frost comes, and shock it up. We pull the ears from that which is to be fed to dry cows and steers, who do well on the fodder and such nubbins as are left upon it. If we wish to fatten cattle in the winter, we give them the fodder with the ears all remaining on it.

At the stations on the railroad, we can sell every thing we can spare at nearly Chicago or New Orleans prices, less the cost of transportation. I believe the charge from here to Chicago is 24 cents per bushel.

We raise what is here called sugar corn, to eat green. We have it fit for cooking from the 20th of June till October. We raise two crops of this, and one crop of turnips on the same ground, in one season. We receive, in excellent condition, fresh fish from the Lake, via Chicago,

and tropical fruits, via New Orleans and Cairo. The facility with which we dispose of whatever we have to sell, and procure whatever we wish to purchase, the mildness of the climate, and the fertility of the soil, render this a most desirable residence. If farmers will once visit us, they will abandon all idea of settling in Iowa. After a farm is once fenced, there is very little use for timber land. *Coal here is rapidly taking the place of wood, as fuel. I buy coal at such a rate, that it is cheaper to burn it than to prepare wood for stoves and fireplaces. Coal is so abundant, that all Southern Illinois will always be supplied at a low rate.*

Numerous Saw Mills are being erected in the timber along the railroad, south of Big Muddy River. Some are completed, and Lumber Yards are established at almost every station, where the pine of the North meets the poplar, cypress, black walnut, sycamore, maple, and oak, from the South. There are saw mills in the smaller portions of timber which occur at short intervals in this part of the State, but they are fully occupied in supplying the demand in their immediate vicinity.

I planted an orchard of apple and peach trees in 1843. The peach trees commenced bearing in 1845, and the apple in 1847; and, although the yield is not uniform in amount, we have enough excellent fruit every year. My cherries, currants, gooseberries, and grapes, have received very little attention, but they yield abundantly. Clover is a difficult crop to start well, but when once well set, it thrives. Timothy, red top, orchard grass, and blue grass, set easily after the prairie has been cultivated, and yield well. The greatest difficulty here is the want of labor. It is so easy to become the owner of land, that almost every man who is worth hiring becomes the owner of a farm within a few years, and wants to hire laborers himself.

Very respectfully, B. G. ROOTS.

LETTER FROM JOHN WILLIAMS, ESQ.

NEW ALBANY, COLES COUNTY, ILLINOIS,
December 23, 1855.

Hon. JOHN WILSON,
Land Commissioner.

Sir: I will now comply with your request for my experience as a farmer in this State; at the same time giving you permission to use this letter as you may judge will tend most to the interest of the State, by inducing industrious men living in the Eastern States, and possessing

but moderate means, to come on to these rich prairies, where, with but a small investment, they can build up, by their energy and prudence, comfortable homes and handsome farms. And not only will these do well, but also for the man of wealth, ambitious of an extended field for operation, no place can be more desirable. To give one instance: Let a man purchase a good stock location, and invest his money the coming spring in young cattle, at a cost of from $2 50 to $3 00 per hundred, gross weight; the grass will make an increase of 50 per cent. on the investment by fall, with the sole cost of a boy to see after them, that they keep together by day, and are pounded at night. I bought, last fall, one hundred and twelve head of cattle, at a cost of $2 30 per hundred, or about $25 50 per head, and have since sold them for beef, to be delivered from the 25th to 28th of April, at $4 25 per hundred, gross — with the hogs that follow them at the same rate; enabling me, as you can readily see, to cash my grain at a first rate price. At my farm, the cattle will bring me from $48 to $50 per head, besides the increase on the hogs.

I have lived in Illinois about thirty years, and have seen some ups and downs in that time. I moved from Kentucky, and settled first in Vermilion County; after living there thirteen years, I moved into Champaign County; lived there three years, and then went over into Platt County, Missouri; not having seen the land there before moving out, and finding it did not equal my expectations, I returned to Illinois, and settled in Coles County, where I have remained ever since; you can therefore see that I have been over some of the West in search of the best place to make the almighty dollar, and as I think I have found it, I will here say, that after a man has lived in the State of Illinois, and farmed its rich soil for a few years, he will find it hard work to hunt up a better country. When I first settled in Vermilion County, the representation of our district comprised all the State lying up along the Lake, including Chicago, which then consisted only of the old block fort on the Lake shore. At that time, we, in the centre of the State, had no market for any of our produce; we had no railroads, and were forced to kill our hogs at home, team them to Terre Haute, sixty miles, and then get $1 50 to $2 per hundred weight, taking half the amount in store goods at a very high figure. So farmers had to work along in those days. I have known corn to sell for 5 to 8 cents per bushel; and yet even then they did well, from the fact that they could raise every thing they wanted to eat, and in abundance, too.

As I said, I have seen some ups and downs in Illinois. In 1836, speculations ran high in land and town sites; then the Legislature passed an act authorizing the construction of some thirteen hundred miles of railroad, of which none was built, excepting a short line from Spring-

field to the Illinois River, while the expectation of a high rate of taxation turned the course of emigration into Iowa; and so it ran on for a few years, until people found out that in passing into Iowa they left behind them the best and richest State, and that all their ideas about high taxation were totally wrong. Then came the act of Congress, authorizing the Legislature of the State to negotiate with a company for the building of a long line of railroad north and south through the State; and the completion of this has ushered in the new era of prosperity for our State. I believe we have now about twenty-five hundred miles of finished railroad, and some six or seven hundred miles in process of building, which gives us a market right at our own doors for all we can raise. Times have changed, indeed, sir, since I commenced in the State. Instead of 5 or 8 cents a bushel for our corn, we now get 25 to 40. Instead of 25 to 38 cents for wheat, we now have $1 25 to $1 60 per bushel; and in place of spending some four days getting to Chicago, we now go up on a morning, do our trading, and get back the next day.

I can raise on my farm, and have done it, 60 to 100 bushels of corn to the acre, 30 to 40 bushels of wheat per acre, and every kind of vegetable in the greatest abundance. I harvested off my farm, this season, 15,000 bushels of corn; two men raised for me, with but little more than their own labor, about 7000 bushels of corn and oats; this corn is now worth, in the crib, over 25 cents per bushel. My neighbors raised from 25 to 38 bushels of wheat per acre, and sold it on the spot at from $1 25 to $1 30 per bushel. Early in the season, Mr. Cuthbertson, a neighbor of mine, sold the crop of wheat off of fifty acres of land, as it stood, for $1500 cash. I will just say, sir, that in Coles, Champaign, Vermilion, Moultrie, and the adjoining Counties, are as good lands as the sun shines upon; the soil is rich and deep; timber first rate; water fine and sweet; health as good as any where in the States; and if a man can't come here and clear the whole cost of his land, improvements and all expenses, from two or three crops, he ought to be hooted out of the State as not fit to be called a farmer. I have never been sick one whole day in thirty years, and there has been but one death in this neighborhood this season. A man can now come into this State, and buy lands even as high as $15 per acre, and make them pay for themselves far more easily than I could when I bought lands at $2 to $3 per acre. My advice to farmers in the East is to leave their rocks and hills, where they are just grubbing out a living, and come on to these splendid prairies, as they lie all ready for the plough, and where every thing which the farmer plants yields such an abundant return. Last spring, I thought I would go over into Iowa and see what the farmers were doing there; so I went, and I'll tell you what I found. The land was held at higher

prices *for cash* than you could buy on credit in this State; all the best of it was in the hands of speculators; it was not a good winter wheat country; fruit did not grow so as to be depended upon; there was no interior market for produce, except the demand caused by emigration; lumber, such as pine boards, cost about $75 per thousand feet, at the Fort, and salt $10 per barrel. There is more timber in my county (Coles) than I saw in any four in Iowa, and I came back perfectly satisfied that there is no State in the whole West equal to Illinois, after all that can be said in favor of the others.

These, gentlemen, are my scattering thoughts on things as they have passed before my own eyes during thirty years' residence in this State, or travelling over the neighboring ones. You can use them as you see fit, while I subscribe myself,

Yours, very truly,

JOHN WILLIAMS.

LETTER FROM REV. JOHN S. BARGER,

GIVING HIS EXPERIENCE IN BREAKING UP AND CULTIVATING A FARM IN THE VICINITY OF THE RAILROAD.

CLINTON, DE WITT CO., ILLINOIS,
January 22, 1855.

Hon. JOHN WILSON,
Land Commissioner.

Dear Sir: Yours of the 8th ult. was received a few days since, and I now answer it, as soon as has been consistent with other obligations.

The statistical information, in the form of facts, substantiated by farmers throughout the State, which you propose embodying in your contemplated circular, designed to show "the result of well-directed efforts in Illinois farming," and to which I have the honor of being requested to contribute, I regret to say, I am not so well prepared to give in detail, as many others, from whom doubtless you will obtain it. Nevertheless, I may at least say, that in your very complimentary remark, you judge correctly in part, that "among those who have broken up the wild prairie, and by judicious management realized large profits," I have been "very successful." Yet, when the fact is known, as it should be in order to form a correct judgment in my case, that I have been an itinerant minister in the M. E. Church, without any cessation, since 1823, (the 20th year of my age,) it will be reasonably concluded that I would have been yet more successful had my efforts and management been directed by the superior skill of a well-trained and practical farmer.

But as you have particularly requested the facts in my own case, as heretofore explained to you, I here offer these facts, taken from my memoranda, for whatever use you may think proper to make of them, and will leave the other details you desire to other hands, better prepared to give them.

From 1848 to 1850, I purchased in De Witt County, and nearly adjoining Clinton, (the County seat,) 400 acres of fine farming land, through which the Illinois Central Railway passes, and in the vicinity three timbered lots, containing 140 acres, making 540, at a cost of $1513 19. In the spring of 1853 I determined to make my farm, and accordingly contracted for the breaking of 300 acres at $600; also, for making 400 rods of fence, at $4 75 per 100 rails in the fence, $494 19; making together $1094 19. Having obtained the privilege of joining to 720 rods of fence on adjoining farms, I thus enclosed 360 acres, and had 280 prepared for seeding.

The breaking was done from the 27th of May to the 9th of July. The greater portion of this ploughed land might, therefore, have been planted in corn, and harvested in time for seeding with wheat; and thus I might have added considerably to the avails of the first year, had I not been 80 miles distant, engaged in the labors of the Jacksonville district.

I paid for seeding 300 acres,	$230 00	
" " 325 bushels seed wheat,	243 75	
Add the cost of making the farm,	1,094 19	$1,567 94
I paid for harvesting, threshing, sacking, and delivering at the Clinton Depot, distant from the farm from $\frac{1}{4}$ to $1\frac{1}{4}$ miles,		1,650 00
Making the entire expenditure,		3,217 94
Sold at the Clinton Depot, $4378\frac{6}{60}$ bushels wheat, for	4,378 82	
I kept for bread,	50 00	
Making the gross income of the first year of		4,428 82
From which take the entire expenditure,		3,217 94
And you have the net proceeds of the first year,		$1,210 88
To which add the cost of making the farm,		1,094 19
Making entire avails of the first year,		$2,305 07

Furthermore, to do justice to the productiveness of the soil, and to show what the well-directed efforts and judicious management of a well-trained and practical Illinois farmer would have done, it should be stated that, at least in my judgment, some 1500 bushels of wheat were wasted by untimely and careless harvesting and threshing, equal to $1500 net proceeds. Then add $55 33, excess of payments for ploughing and

seeding only 280 acres, which a skilful farmer would have known before making his contracts, and you have a loss, which ought to have been a gain, of $1555 33. This amount saved would have showed the avails of the first year's operation, on 280 acres of the farm, to have been $3860 40.

Now, sir, if one under such circumstances, with but little more than a theoretical knowledge of farming, has succeeded even thus well, having hired all the labor, and mostly at very high prices, how much larger profits might have been realized by a skilful and practical farmer, devoting his whole time and attention to his appropriate occupation! How much more successful thousands of farmers and farmers' sons on our Eastern seaboard and in our Eastern States might be, were they, or could they, be induced to move on, and apply their skill, industry, and economy in the cultivation of the rich and productive prairies of Illinois!

Let them come by thousands and tens of thousands, — there is room enough, — and examine the country. They will find rich lands, and good water, and general health almost every where. This is not a wilderness. They will find schools and churches springing up in almost every settlement made, and now being made, throughout the State. Illinois is not a moral desolation. It literally and spiritually "blossoms as the rose." Let them come to Chicago, and go to Galena, and visit Cairo. But let them not remain at either place, unless they choose. The Illinois Central Railroad and its branches traverse the finest portion of the globe. Let them glide through our State, on these and other roads, now checkering almost the entire of this "Garden of the Lord," and stop where they will, to "examine the land, of what sort it is," and they will no longer consent to dig among the rocks, and plough the sterile lands of their forefathers. But they will long bless the day when they found for themselves and their children such comfortable homes as they still may obtain, in this rich and beautiful Prairie State, destined soon to compare with, nay, to surpass, in all the most desirable respects, the most prosperous State in the Union.

I will now give you a concise history of the operations of Mr. Funk. Both before and since his marriage, he had made rails for his neighbors at twenty-five cents per 100. But when the lands where he lived came into market, 25 years ago, he had saved of his five years' earnings $1400, and says, if he had invested it all in lands he would now have been rich. With $200 he bought his first quarter section, and loaned to his neighbors $800, to buy their homes; and with the remaining $400 he purchased a lot of cattle. With this beginning, Mr. Funk now owns 7000 acres of land, has near 2700 in cultivation, and his last year's

sale of cattle and hogs, at the Chicago market, amounted to a little over $44,000.

Mr. Isaac Funk, of Funk's Grove, nine miles distant from his brother Jesse, and ten miles north-west from Bloomington, on the Mississippi and Chicago Railroad, began the world in Illinois at the same time, having a little the advantage of Jesse, so far as having a little borrowed capital. He now owns about 27,000 acres of land, has about 4000 acres in cultivation, and his last sales of cattle at Chicago amounted to $65,000.

These families have enjoyed almost uninterrupted health. Mr. Isaac Funk has had 10 children, and Mr. Jesse Funk 8. In the family of Isaac, one died of fever; and in that of Jesse, one by an accidental fall from a wagon.

Yours, truly,

JOHN S. BARGER.

LETTER FROM JAMES PHILLIPS, ESQ.

Nashville, Washington Co., Illinois,
December 26, 1855

J. B. Austin, Esq.,

Land Department, I. C. R. R.

Dear Sir: For the information of those who design coming West, I forward you the following thoughts about our country — a portion of this great valley which has been, to a great extent, hitherto overlooked by emigrants. Until quite recently we were, to a great degree, cut off from a market. Produce could not be transported to our great thoroughfares, the freight, in many instances, costing more than the article would bring when taken to the nearest shipping point. Now, however, the case is quite different. A market has been created by railroads, at our own homes, for every article the tiller of the soil produces. Formerly our farmers raised their products, then fed the same to their horses, cattle, sheep, hogs, &c., looking forward from one to four years for a time when this stock could be advantageously cashed. Now, his corn, wheat, oats, beans, hay, &c., command fair rates at the nearest depot so soon as delivered; thus giving him a quick return, instead of the long one he previously received.

Our climate is temperate. We neither have the protracted cold of the lakes of the North, nor the sultry heat of the South. This country will compare favorably with any other portion of the Mississippi valley

for health. We are exempt from the consumption of the Eastern States, from the low fevers of the Southern States, and comparatively free from those miasmatic diseases of the Western States in their early settlement; and in proportion as our country is tilled, as the primeval surface gives place to cultivation, will these latter disappear also. Excellent water is obtained at an average depth, almost any where, of twenty feet. Our soil is of an excellent quality, surface pleasantly undulating, enough so to avoid swamps on the one hand, and not too broken on the other. Timber is both good and plentiful. Some of our prairies are a little larger than we could desire, but in them hedges thrive for fencing, so well, indeed, that many of our farmers are hedging who have an abundance of timber near by their farms. Our population is rapidly increasing by the influx of an intelligent and well-to-do class of people.

We have the land here that can now produce 100 bushels corn to an acre, or at least the stalks are now standing from which Mr. G——, our sheriff, gathered that amount. There is a farmer near by me, who ploughed up in the summer a piece of land of a medium quality; in the fall he put it down in wheat, and the following harvest (the late summer) he took off between thirty and forty bushels to the acre, and this without any particular or special care about it. Oats, rye, barley, buckwheat, beans, peas, potatoes, and most garden vegetables that grow in temperate climates, flourish here luxuriantly. A friend of mine, last spring, a young farmer, planted a peck of potatoes; his family consisted of himself, wife, and two children; they made almost daily use of his potatoes from the time there were any small ones to be found, until digging time, when he took out nine bushels of potatoes for winter use. A remark here: None of these lands were manured; that is a word not to be found in our farmer's lexicon. Not that manuring would not pay; but what is the use? All we have to do is to turn down with a sod plough, at the rate of two or three acres a day, stick in the corn with an axe, and come out in the fall for the crop. Or, if we wish to sow wheat, all we have to do is to harrow a couple of times, and sow down the wheat. No lands, perhaps, under the sun, are capable of being rendered more fertile and productive by rotation of crops and all the appliances of scientific husbandry.

There is Mr. K——, who came here a poor adventurer, with nothing of this world's goods; he went to farming, continued it assiduously, turning his farm produce into stock, his stock into cash, and his cash into lands. He is now worth about fifty thousand dollars.

A son of the preceding commenced about ten years ago doing business for himself. He had about one thousand dollars to start with, and has

gone on increasing his wealth at the rate of a thousand a year. This was done exclusively by farming.

Colonel P—— came here as one of the early pioneers of this country, went to tilling the land, followed it up to the present time, engaging in nothing else. He is now worth about twenty thousand, having begun with less than one hundred dollars. These are a few of the many that might be given. One remark about this country: One fair crop of any of the usual grains grown here is worth, when harvested, what the land will cost; so that an emigrant can easily calculate what he can do on an average. Thus, if he can plant and till one hundred acres of land by putting in corn or wheat, he can pretty safely estimate, when he threshes his wheat, or cribs his corn, that it will be worth the prime cost of his one hundred acres of land. This is not all; for when his land is ploughed and fenced it is worth double what it was before subjugation.

In conclusion I would say, we are not crowded by reason of the density of our population. We need a large increase of intelligent, industrious, persevering young farmers. As yet but about one fourth of our lands are fenced; and we have but a tithe of the wealth and population we shall have when this great valley shall become the agricultural centre of the earth, and Illinois its most favored spot.

Yours respectfully,

JAMES PHILLIPS

LETTER FROM A. J. GALLOWAY, ESQ.

FARM IN THE VICINITY OF THE COMPANY'S LANDS.

EWINGTON, EFFINGHAM CO., ILLINOIS,
February 12, 1855.

Hon. JOHN WILSON,

Land Commissioner, Illinois Central Railroad.

Dear Sir: My residence in Illinois began in April, 1837. During the first four years I resided in Wabash County, after which I removed to the northern part of the State, and in 1842 purchased some lands in La Salle County. From that until the present time I have been making, cultivating, and extending my farm.

The subsoil of the prairie land throughout the State, with a few exceptions, is a compact clay, through which water settles but slowly, thus securing great durability to the natural soil, as well as effectually preventing the escape of artificial manures, by the process of leaching. Upon very level prairie, this characteristic causes the land to be too wet

for the profitable cultivation of the several kinds of grain, without some special preparation; this, however, may be almost universally overcome by manuring, and deep and thorough ploughing; deep ploughing alone will prove effectual in a large majority of instances.

South of the parallel of forty-one degrees north latitude, the staple production is, and must continue to be, Indian corn, or maize, though almost all grain and vegetables, grown in a temperate climate, may be profitably cultivated, and should not be neglected.

During my residence upon my farm in La Salle County, our average crop of corn, say on a field of eighty acres, did not vary much from fifty bushels per acre. Winter wheat, (for I think spring wheat a nuisance,) upon a field of thirty acres, varied in different years from nineteen to twenty-three bushels per acre, harvested with McCormick's Reaper, and threshed and separated by machines built at Alton, Illinois. Oats varied from forty to sixty bushels per acre, and in one instance, upon a small lot of four acres, I obtained almost one hundred bushels per acre.

My estimate for the cost of production and preparation for market, previous to 1850, after allowing thirty-three per cent. of the crop for the use of the land, was forty cents per bushel for wheat, and about fifteen cents per bushel for corn and oats.

I could usually obtain good farm hands (men) at one hundred to one hundred and twenty dollars per year, with board and lodging furnished.

The many difficulties with which a single hand upon a farm has to contend, render it hard to say what one man, with a pair of horses, can cultivate properly — certainly not to exceed forty acres; whereas two men, with four horses, could readily manage a hundred acres, and three men, with about five horses, one hundred and sixty acres, in addition to the usual amount of land devoted to meadow and grasses.

In reply to your ninth interrogatory, I would say that south of the parallel I have mentioned, nearly one half of the whole farm devoted to grain and vegetables should be planted in corn, and three fourths of the remainder in wheat and oats, in about equal quantities. The cultivation of barley, rye, potatoes, &c., should be governed by the character of the farm, its position in relation to markets, and somewhat by the tastes, education, and habits of the farmer.

In La Salle County, where wood land is not so plenty as it is in this region, a good common rail fence would cost about seventy-five cents per rod; but I have contracted for a number of miles of such fence, eight rails high, staked and riddered, with a sound block under each corner, to be built in this and some other counties for the Illinois Central Railroad, at the rate of fifty cents per rod.

I have tried different methods of turning up or breaking prairie sod, and am fully satisfied that where the prairie is clear, that is, destitute of hazel bushes, or other woody growth, a man who understands the business, with a good pair of horses and a plough properly constructed, such as was manufactured a few years since in Indian Town, Bureau County, can do the work better and cheaper than in any other way that has ever come under my observation. One acre and a half per day is the fair average for such a team. Prairie should always be broken between the 10th of May and the 20th of June, in the latitude of La Salle County. In this county the work should be completed as early as the 10th of June.

For persons wishing to make a settlement in Illinois, I should advise about the same course for almost any part of the State with which I am acquainted. The first thing such person should do is to make a personal examination of the country, and select a location. Then, if he should have the means to spare, and could purchase forty or eighty acres of good prairie land, not more than five miles from where materials for building, fencing, and fuel, can be obtained at reasonable rates, and get a long credit upon three fourths of the purchase money, I should advise him to secure it at once.

He should then procure a good pair of horses and wagon, a cow, a few pigs, and some poultry, and two good ploughs, one for breaking prairie and the other for cultivating land already subdued. Thus provided, it would be well if he could rent a small tenement with a few acres of improved land near his own, for a year or two, until he could get his farm under way. But if no such tenement could be obtained, he should at once build a cheap house upon his own land, and push forward his improvements.

Prairie sod broken in the manner and at the time heretofore stated, will be sufficiently rotten to cross-plough as early as the 10th of August. This cross-ploughing should not be neglected, and in the north of the State wheat should be sown broadcast, and harrowed both ways, or drilled in by a proper machine, about the 1st of September. Wheat sown upon such land in this manner rarely fails to produce an excellent crop. The next two years after the wheat is taken off the ground, two good crops of corn may be produced, with comparatively little labor. Oats is perhaps the proper grain for the fourth crop; and by that time, if the new settler be a man of reasonably perceptive powers, he will have made himself sufficiently well acquainted with the soil, climate, rotation of crops, &c., to manage his farm to good advantage. Much may be learned from the many agricultural periodicals with which our country abounds, and no farmer should be without one or more of these valuable aids. But, to succeed well, he must thoroughly investigate the local

peculiarities of his own neighborhood, and especially those of his own farm.

There is a general and growing disposition throughout the State to educate; and in a very few years, all the educational facilities which exist in the Eastern States will be at the command of the citizens of Illinois.

There is little disease at any time in the State, which may not be traced, directly or indirectly, to derangement in the biliary organs; and much of this should, no doubt, be attributed to the free use of heavy bread, strong coffee, and a large amount of animal food, to the partial or total exclusion of vegetable diet. I think I am free from prejudice when I say that, except in the valleys of the larger streams, but more especially upon the high rolling prairies of Middle and Northern Illinois, a more healthy country is not to be found, even in the mountainous districts of the older States.

In these hasty lines, I have endeavored to answer some of your interrogatories as categorically as their nature would permit, without attempting to sustain my opinions by argument. If they should prove of the least service to you or others, I shall be more than compensated for the very little time and attention which I have felt at liberty to bestow upon them. Respectfully, your obedient servant,

A. J. GALLOWAY.

LETTER FROM C. G. TAYLOR, ESQ.

PLEASANT RIDGE, ROCK ISLAND CO., ILLINOIS,
December 22, 1856.

JOSEPH B. AUSTIN, ESQ.

Land Department, Illinois Central Railroad Co.

Dear Sir: Your letter requesting me to furnish the public, through your published circular, with information as to the method and results of farming, as practised in Illinois, reached me a few days since. I will cheerfully do all in my power to effect your object, though I trust you will hear from others more versed in writing than myself.

I was raised in Jefferson County, New York State, amidst the log cabins, stumps, rocks, and snow banks; my father was a farmer, and I know full well what it costs to farm in Northern New York, from the felling of the first tree to placing the land under a good state of cultivation. In the spring of 1844, I removed to this State, and have been engaged in farming most of the time since. The soil of this portion of

Illinois is a dark, rich mould, varying from two to six feet in depth, with clay bottom; there is but little sandy soil hereabouts; about one tenth of the country is covered with fine timber, mostly on the borders of our rivers and small streams; timber land is held at from $10 to $50 per acre, according to quality and location. Our water is usually hard. The surface of the land *in this county* being generally level, but few springs are afforded; the best of water, however, can be readily obtained by digging, and is usually found in abundance, at the depth of from ten to twenty-five feet. There is also a plentiful supply for stock, in our ravines, small streams, and sloughs. Stone and brick, for cellars and buildings, are scarce on these prairies; but cement, plastered on a mud wall, answers very well, and makes a neat and dry cellar. Pine lumber and oak posts are now mostly used by the new settlers for fencing; a good fence can be put up at from eighty cents to one dollar and a quarter per rod, according to the number of boards high the fence may be built. No settler, new or old, should neglect, however, to raise the Osage Orange or Maclura hedge, as, with proper care, in four years time he can have the most durable and beautiful living fence, the entire cost of which will not have exceeded 25 or 30 cents per rod. Materials for building are procured from rafts on our rivers, or at Chicago, from whence they are conveyed, by railroads, to any part of the State.

The breaking of prairie is mostly done in May or June, though it can be carried on at any season when the frost is out of the ground. Many farmers use the heavy breaking plough, cutting a furrow from eighteen to twenty-six inches wide, and about three inches deep, requiring a force of from three to six yoke of oxen; of late, however, so many improvements have been made in the form and draught of ploughs, that the prairie can be readily broken, at the rate of one and a quarter to one and a half acres per day, with a single pair of horses; and this mode I think preferable to the use of the heavy plough and large teams. This every farmer can do with his own team, and at his leisure. I break from fifteen to thirty acres annually, commencing soon after corn planting, and thus add every year to my improvements, within my own means. There are several Plough Factories in this State, where ploughs, made of the best steel, and on the newest plans, may be purchased for about $16 each. These are made with a rolling colter, which I consider the best. I will here remark that ploughs made of cast iron will not work well in our soil, as it is impossible to keep them bright; only those made of the best of steel, and of the right turn and shape, will scour in our rich, loose mould. All kinds suitable for our soil are made in the State, and delivered by railroad, at any point, at reasonable rates.

Sod corn, if planted in the month of May, and followed by favorable

weather, viz., warm and wet, will yield from twenty to fifty bushels per acre. The planting is done by sticking an axe or spade between the layers of sod, and after dropping the corn, applying the *heel of the boot freely*. It needs no culture.

If a very light crop of corn is raised, the stalks may be removed, and the ground sown with winter wheat. If a heavy crop, it will take too much work to clear the ground of the stalks, and the stumps and roots will be a great hinderance to the harrow, as the corn roots are strongly set in the sod. If the sod crop cannot be relied on with safety, it is, perhaps, better to let the sod lie until September, and then sow with winter wheat, and harrow thoroughly. This is almost invariably a sure crop, more so than any of the after ones, as the sod holds the roots during our usually dry and snowless winter. Or, the sod may lie till spring, and then be sown with spring wheat, and harrowed only. Let it be cross-ploughed, and we have what no field can be in the Eastern States, with all the manure combined. The soil being a black mould, and very mellow, any thing will grow in it that grows in this latitude. Spring wheat and oats are liable to grow too rank. They should be sown as soon as the frost is out of the ground, that the straw may have a stunted growth. If sown late, say after the first of April, too much straw is grown, which is liable to cause the wheat to blast, smut, &c. We have no summer fallows in this section, and I have seen none in Illinois.

We raise but little winter wheat, (in this particular section of the State,) after the first crop, on the first breaking, until we break up a tame meadow or pasture; then again we have a fine crop. Our usual mode of raising spring wheat, oats, and barley, is to sow on the fall ploughing, or on corn ground without ploughing, — only harrowing. I raise all my small grain as above, ploughing no land in the spring, except for corn and vegetables. My crops for several years past *have averaged*, Corn 75 bushels per acre, Oats 60 bushels, Spring Wheat 25 bushels, Potatoes varying from 100 to 300 bushels.

One team can do the work on a farm of fifty or sixty acres, if all the breaking is done. All stubble land should be ploughed in the fall, and be ready for the small grain in the spring. One man and two horses can easily tend thirty to forty acres of corn, one ploughing for which is sufficient; then mark off both ways rows about three and a half feet wide, and plant the seed with a machine or a hoe. A man can cover four acres per day; a small boy can drop the seed. The hoe is hardly ever used, as we have machines which drop and cover by man or horse power. We harrow with a three-cornered harrow, by knocking out the forward teeth, as soon as the corn is out of the ground, then use the cultivator, or one horse plough, and work it both ways; twice working after harrowing is sufficient; no hoeing required. A fair yield of winter

wheat is about twenty-five bushels per acre; spring wheat, twenty to thirty; oats, forty to seventy-five; barley, twenty to forty; winter rye, twenty to thirty; corn, forty to eighty; potatoes, one hundred to three hundred.

We commence to harvest our corn about the 10th of October. There is more harvested in December than in any other month. Corn can be raised and cribbed at 15 cents per bushel. Our small grain is all cut by machinery. A machine, followed by six binders, cuts and shocks from ten to fifteen acres per day. Price of cutting, 60 to 75 cents per acre. To binders we pay from $1 to $1 50 per day. As it is impossible to house all the grain, it is stacked. Threshing is also done by machinery. This, with cleaning, will cost 5 cents per bushel for wheat; oats, 2½ cents.

The straw is usually stacked, to which the cattle have free access during the winter.

Our market is at Chicago or St. Louis. No part of our State is far from railroad or steamboat shipping, having about 2400 miles of the former now in good running order, and about 1000 miles of river navigation, besides our Canal and Lake coast.

Our charges correspond with the Eastern market, with the freight charge deducted.

Our soil is well calculated for the production of the tame grasses. Our meadows yield from one and a half to three tons per acre. Ground that has been mown for ten or fifteen years produces better crops than the new land, because the top soil, which is principally composed of decayed grass and the ashes deposited by annual burnings, is very loose and open. After deep ploughing, and comparatively using up this top soil, we obtain a more compact and fine soil, which will hold the roots of the grass firm and secure. Clover grows luxuriantly, but the trouble is, there is not a sufficient quantity sown to supply the great demand.

There has been, until lately, but little attention paid to the raising of stock. At this present time, we can boast of being equal to the other States in some choice selections of the best stock in the Union. Only a small portion of prairie is yet broken. The cattle roam as upon a "thousand hills" during the summer; but in the winter are fed upon straw, standing cornstalks, and prairie hay. Very little corn fodder is cut and cured, being too heavy to handle. Probably three fourths of our hay, as yet, is cut upon the prairie, which makes, if well cured, excellent feed. Any quantity of this hay can be cut in any section, yielding from one to three tons per acre. I have fed, for several winters, between sixty and ninety head of cattle upon prairie hay, and have not lost a single one by disease. Our hay is cut by mowing machines, at a cost of 75 cents to $1 per ton, taking it after the machine, the buyer raking, and hauling it home. The feed for a cow, aside from grain, will not

exceed $4 per year. Our pasture is free. Our prairie grass is fully equal to tame grass, for butter, cheese, &c., up to the time of frost, which is usually about the 10th of October. The product from my dairy of about thirty-five cows, for the last six years, has been on an average about $24 per cow, besides the slop for hogs, and the feed for nearly as many calves. For the last two years, in the fall, the price of butter has been from 20 to 25 cents per pound, and cheese 10 to 15 cents. I think these figures will be near the standard for years to come.

In regard to fruit, I will say that there is a very growing attention now paid to raising the choicer varieties, and we have all the best which will flourish in the Eastern or Middle States. At the nurseries in this State, all desirable varieties may be purchased at fair prices. There is no State in the Union that can support so large a population as Illinois. Now, not more than one sixth part of the surface is under cultivation. There is scarcely an acre that can be called *waste ground*. We have no mountains nor rocks; no stumps to grub out; no stones to pick off, and seldom a snow bank to wallow through. I believe if this State was cultivated as New York or Massachusetts, it would *feed* the Union.

A grant of one thirty-sixth part of the former *government lands* was set apart by Congress for public schools. Our State debt will all be paid in a few years by the internal resources, without the increase of taxation. This debt has been a bugbear to some of our Eastern friends, declining to locate with us, for fear of being obliged to help pay it. This objection is now removed. Why the Eastern emigrants seek a home in Nebraska, Minnesota, or even in Iowa, is strange to my mind. Illinois has all the advantages that any reasonable man could desire. Our railroads are now so connected that we have quick and easy access to any part of the Union, while the Eastern market is brought to our very door. For the last three years, there have been, each season, 50,000 bushels of Wheat, 25,000 bushels of Oats, and 75,000 bushels of Corn raised immediately around, and fairly in sight from, my house. As to health, we are willing to enter into comparison with any State in the Union. Consumption, which carries off its victims by thousands in the Eastern States, is almost unknown here, and I can have no doubt but that the most cautious of our Eastern friends, upon a full examination of the facts and statistics connected with our State and neighborhood, would be entirely satisfied that prudence in living, and a clear conscience, bring with them the same ruddy cheek and vigorous life as are found existing in any State or country in the world. I have endeavored to bring this letter up to the present state of affairs in this portion of our State, and would request you to publish it instead of my former one, now several years old. Very respectfully yours,

C. G. TAYLOR.

ILLINOIS THROUGH MASSACHUSETTS SPECTACLES.

Permit me, as a Massachusetts farmer, under the above heading, to give a faint glimpse of some matters and things in the Prairie State — as seen through my glasses.

Every farmer knows well the benefit of crossing his stock, and it may be that ideas improve under a similar law; at the worst, I shall be safe, as there is no possible danger for me to lose by the cross, but have every chance to gain.

It will not do for the New England man to come here and carry out all his notions of economy; his ideas will be altogether too contracted; he only knows of farming upon a limited scale, and "under difficulties." In this State, nature has done much for the husbandman, and his system of agriculture must be as broad and comprehensive as the prairies themselves. In New England, there is more calculation, more order, more method, more finish; the soil being so sterile, the people have been necessitated to learn these sterling qualities. In this State, I am sorry to say, they seem but little practised; but there is no spot on the globe where it would pay better. It is true, the land fever has raged extensively among your farmers, and they have invested every spare dollar in increasing the number of their acres, instead of building houses and barns, and purchasing farming utensils, and giving their homes an air of comfort; and it has proved to be a good investment: but there are very many who have secured the number of acres to satisfy them, who have all kinds of stock in abundance, and money besides, who do not live and enjoy the comforts of home and social life in so high a degree as the mechanic in New England, who supports himself and his family upon one dollar and a half per day. This class of farmers have, no doubt, generally commenced poor, and struggled with all the disadvantages of a border life, until the introduction of railroads into the State, when they availed themselves of the benefits, and found fortunes in the sudden rise in the value of their estates, but have no desire further to improve their condition.

So far as health is concerned, time will prove that the prairies of the West will compare well with any of the Eastern States. Eastern people have made a big bugbear out of the miasma of the prairies; but if they will turn their attention to the thousands of alder swamps between their hills, where the sun and wind are almost strangers, they will discover more causes of ill health concentrated there in a few acres, than are scattered over a whole prairie, where the purifying influences of the sun and wind have full scope. This season has been an unusually unhealthy

one for this State; but during the most sickly time, I was wandering over the prairies, and I saw but few instances where the ill health could not be directly traced to infringements of physical laws, either through ignorance or necessity. In some cases of chills and fever that have come under my observation, a few outward applications of soap and water no doubt would have relieved the patient. Then, again, if the pioneers would eat less pork, and more fruit and vegetables, it would be much better for them; and I only wonder, all things considered, that there is *so much* health there, the people are such big sinners in a physical point of view. Pure water is an important item in the bill of health, though it is but little attended to. People all over the prairies drink surface water, when, with digging or boring, pure water can be had; or, what might be still better for family use, cisterns can be sunk in the earth at a trifling expense, to save all the rain water from buildings. When the new settlers get the conveniences of life around them, the prairies will be regarded as more healthy than the Eastern States. The fevers of the West will never be a match for the consumption of the East.

Now to farming. At the East, large stories are in circulation about the productiveness of Illinois, and I am happy to say that I have seen with my own eyes crops of various kinds upon the soil, which if I should report them at the East, I should not be believed, though I have a decent reputation for truth there. For this fruitfulness, nature should receive all the thanks, — the farmer none. Though blessed with the most productive soil, it is improved but poorly. At most, not one cultivator in ten can lay any claim to the name of farmer; though it is true, that circumstances have been very much against the development of the agricultural interest of this State, until the opening of the railroads. Now, farming has received such an impetus that it will soon come up to the standard it is destined to reach; but so fertile is the soil, the extent of its capacity to produce is unlimited. Corn and wheat are the crops farmers mostly rely upon; but barley, rye, beans, potatoes, onions, flax, and fruits of all kinds adapted to the State, in addition, will pay equally as well, and for a number of years, even better. In fact, the farmer cannot turn his attention to stock raising or the cultivation of any crop, if he is a practical man, and has any energy, without realizing a fortune, and, too, at prices far below the present. As an act of humanity, and for the saving of thousands of tons of beef and pork, he should provide temporary sheds, if nothing more, for the protection of his flocks and herds. The cold winds on the prairies are as hard for cattle to bear, and they need as much shelter in the winter, as in Massachusetts; and persons there, not providing shelter for their cattle, would be indicted for

cruelty to dumb beasts. If beasts are exposed, the natural heat of the animal must be kept up with extra feed, or at the expense of the animal; and the consequent result is, that in the spring, most of the cattle here are poor, and then it takes half the following summer to get them up again.

After spending a few months in travelling over this State, and seeing for myself, I have made an estimate of the production, or, rather, the amount of produce a good farmer can sell from a section of land, after provisioning his family and assistants, and feeding the necessary teams to be employed upon a grain farm, taking the prairie in the wild state, and for the first years commencing moderately, by ploughing one third the first, two thirds the second, and the whole the third, fourth, and fifth years; and I think that fifty thousand dollars can be realized, as the total receipts for the five years' term. This estimate is for a grain farm, which should be located in the neighborhood of a depot. During these five years, fruit trees and other improvements should be going on, to keep up with the age. The double plough should be used in breaking the sod, so that as good a crop can be had the first as succeeding years. From what I know of farming in New England, I should much rather prefer land in this State, if I could get it upon a long credit, so as to put my capital into improvements, than to accept of one half of the farms there with a free title to commence with. Practise the same energy and industry as would be necessary there, and a young man can earn his farm here, and be wealthier in ten years, than he could to have a farm presented him in New England to start with. One word about wood land, and my long yarn shall break. Eastern men, on first coming into this State, sigh for more wood land; but they soon learn that there is coal enough below its surface to warm up the hearts and bodies of all of Uncle Sam's family, besides generating steam enough to drive all the engines in creation to all eternity.

Then, again, in twenty years from this time, there will be twenty times as much forest as at present; for as soon as the prairie fires are stopped, timber starts up; and trees every intelligent farmer is now planting, just where he wants them, to beautify and adorn his lands. Fencing material will be mostly supplied by hedging, which will also tend to make this State what nature has designed it to be — the Eden of America.

L. G. CHASE.

PERA STATION, *Dec. 29th*, 1855.
On Chicago Branch of Illinois C. R. R.

LETTER FROM DANIEL ARTER, ESQ.

VILLA RIDGE, ILLINOIS, *Jan.* 25, 1856.

Hon. JOHN WILSON,

Land Commissioner.

Dear Sir: Understanding that you are desirous of obtaining information concerning the agricultural capabilities, general features, &c., of the southern, as well as other portions of Illinois, I cheerfully offer the following facts.

For upwards of twenty years I have been a permanent resident of the southern part of the State, located opposite Section 12 of the Illinois Central Railroad, (12 miles from Cairo,) and three quarters of a mile from said road, in a westerly direction. During that period, my attention has been mainly devoted to agriculture, and the practice of medicine — the pursuit of which calling will enable me to bear valuable testimony, perhaps, in behalf of, at least, the locality wherein I operated.

The land I have cultivated has proved itself well adapted to the raising of quite every kind of grain, fruits, vegetables, &c., which an agreeable medium of climate allows.

The average yield of my farm, which is mainly hill land, not abruptly broken, however, and which (I can safely add) is the general character of the county (Pulaski) wherein I reside, has been about as follows: —

Corn, 40 to 45 bushels per acre.
Wheat, 20 " "
Potatoes, 250 " "

whilst oats, barley, rye, buckwheat, &c., grow in just proportion.

Of fruits I have ever had an abundant yield; peaches, plums, quinces, cherries, and pears being cultivated with remarkable success, so far as experiments have been made, whilst the culture of apples has never failed to reward abundantly all labor and expense bestowed.

Vegetables, of almost every character, quite every description of grape and berry, grow astonishingly, although little attention is now being paid to their cultivation. Much of the land is peculiarly adapted to the cultivation of the grape; and nowhere do I know of a locality more fitly situated for an extensive gardening interest than that in question. Its situation is but a few miles from Cairo, — a market rarely, if ever, overstocked with vegetables, owing to the great river demand, — and sufficiently distant south from Chicago to enable the producer to ripen certain garden products a few weeks after the seeds of similar products begin to germinate so far north.

The climate is happily exempt from all remarkable extremes. The country is abundantly supplied with never-failing springs of pure, cold

water, is well timbered, generally provided with every necessary the wants of the settler demand, and bears a reputation for *health* among those familiar with the locality, which alone should render it a desirable place of residence, were every other feature less encouraging than here truthfully represented. I am, sir, your ob't serv't,

DANIEL ARTER.

LETTER FROM JOSEPH C. ORTH, ESQ.

McCleary's Bluff, Wabash Co., Illinois,
December 16, 1855.

Hon. John Wilson,

Land Commissioner.

Dear Sir: I have been a resident of this county for the past twelve years, having emigrated from Lebanon County, Pennsylvania, and have devoted a large portion of the time since to agricultural pursuits. From close observations during this period, I have become pretty thoroughly acquainted with Southern Illinois, and its relative advantages and disadvantages, as compared with the northern part of the State. The soil upon the upland is not so rich in appearance as that in the northern prairies, being a grayish calcareous clay, with an admixture of vegetable mould; but produces, with proper cultivation, very heavy crops of corn, often equal to those raised on the black alluvial soil skirting the streams. It is peculiarly adapted to the smaller grains, such as wheat, oats, barley, rye, and also the various meadow grasses. The culture of wheat has been of comparatively recent introduction into this section of the State; and such has been the remarkable success of the experiment, that it is destined to become one of the principal staples of Southern Illinois. The average crops of Pennsylvania farmers, who have here turned their attention to its growth, have been about 23 bushels per acre, of winter wheat. The grain is plump and heavy, often weighing as high as 66 pounds to the bushel. In the fall of 1853, the premium priced wheat received at the St. Louis market was shipped from this section of the State. The variety principally grown is the white or blue stem; though the red varieties are equally sure and productive. An experienced Pennsylvania farmer, Mr. George Glick, who has resided here some years, last season travelled through Illinois, from here to Galena, and was led, from motives of curiosity, to examine the specimens of wheat in the stacks, granaries, and mills along his route. He came back fully satisfied that the best region in Illinois for raising winter wheat is south of the National Road. The berry is larger and heavier, and the plant not so

likely to freeze out as on the extreme northern prairies, where the winter winds blow off the light, porous soil from about the roots. The high character of Southern Illinois wheat is still more clearly demonstrated by the fact that the specimens of wheat from Union, one of the southernmost counties, bore off the premium at the last State Fair at Chicago.

Among the grasses, timothy and blue grass thrive well, and clover is particularly a sure crop, yielding two tons of hay and two bushels of seed per acre. I know from experience that our gray upland soil may be annually enriched by a proper rotation of crops, and by occasionally seeding down in clover. It is unnecessary to say any thing of the general productive capacity of this region, so far as Indian corn is concerned. Even with the careless cultivation usually bestowed upon it, the yield is equal to that of any portion of the Mississippi valley. A peculiar feature of Southern Illinois is, that the timber land and prairie alternate in tracts of convenient size, and the surface is more undulating, as a general thing, than in the north part of the State, thus affording facilities for convenient drainage.

For stock raising, this region offers great advantages, as the winters are comparatively mild and short, and domestic animals consequently require less food, and can be raised with less expense than in a higher latitude.

As to health, I candidly believe Southern Illinois will compare favorably with any portion of the west. That scourge of the North, consumption, is almost unknown here. It is true that on the rich lowlands bordering the streams, bilious disorders prevail to some extent in the fall season, but on the uplands, good health may be enjoyed, with ordinary prudence. Diseases, the result of miasma, prevail in every new country south of the 44th parallel of latitude, when the virgin soil is first turned over and exposed to the atmosphere. It was so in the Genesee valley, in New York, and in the valley of the Miami, in Ohio, and has been so in Illinois; but the country becomes more healthful as it grows older. A great deal of ague and chills is attributable to errors in diet, to imprudent exposure, to uncomfortable dwelling houses, and to using well water where it leaches through the soil, instead of flowing through veins in the rock. By occupying comfortable tenements, avoiding needless exposure, eating suitable food, and using only sweet, pure water for drinking and culinary purposes, as good health may be enjoyed in Southern Illinois as any where in the Union.

An unjust prejudice has hitherto prevailed against this section of the State. None of the great avenues of travel have, until recently, passed through it. It looks uninviting and sterile to those who only view it from the steamers as they sweep around its borders on the Mississippi

and Ohio Rivers. Immense tracts of its fertile wood land and prairies were, until recently, in the hands of *squatters*, who had held it for years as public land, thus avoiding paying Government for the land, and taxes to the State. They purposely discouraged all those who wished to settle among them, and gave currency to all manner of evil reports concerning the country, to prevent strangers from entering them out at the United States' land offices. This class are, however, fast leaving, and giving place to better citizens.

These causes, and others which might be enumerated, have conspired to keep Southern Illinois in the background; but through the influence of the railroads that are now penetrating it, its intrinsic advantages must soon become known; and the inducements it offers in soil, climate, and convenience, either to the New Orleans, St. Louis, or Chicago markets, will gradually become appreciated by the sagacious and enterprising emigrant farmer.

Very respectfully yours,

JOSEPH C. ORTH.

LETTER FROM J. AMBROSE WIGHT, ESQ.

EDITOR OF THE PRAIRIE FARMER.

Hon. JOHN WILSON.

Dear Sir: At your request I would state that, from an acquaintance with Illinois lands and Illinois farmers of eighteen years, thirteen of which I have been engaged as editor of the *Prairie Farmer*, I am prepared to give the following as the rates of produce which may be had per acre, with ordinary culture: —

Winter wheat,	15	to 25	bushels.
Spring wheat,	10	to 20	"
Indian corn,	40	to 70	"
Oats,	40	to 80	"
Potatoes,	100	to 200	"
Grass, (timothy and clover,)	1½	to 3	tons.

"*Ordinary culture*," on prairie lands, is not what is meant by the term in the Eastern or Middle States. It means, here, no manure; and commonly *but once*, or, at most, twice ploughing, on perfectly smooth land, with long furrows, and no stones or obstructions; when two acres per day is no hard job for one team. It is often but very poor culture, with shallow ploughing, and without attention to weeds.

I have known crops, not unfrequently, far greater than these, with but

little variation in their treatment; say forty to fifty bushels of winter wheat, sixty to eighty of oats, three hundred of potatoes, and one hundred of Indian corn. "*Good culture*," which means rotation, deep ploughing, farms well stocked, and some manure, applied at intervals of from three to five years, would, in good seasons, very often approach these latter figures.

Yours, truly,

J. AMBROSE WIGHT.

January 9, 1855.

Extract from the Chicago Daily Democratic Press.

ILLINOIS FARMS AND FARMERS.

We find a letter in the Hunterton Gazette, New Jersey, from a prominent citizen of that section who has been out West prospecting, with a view of locating among us. Speaking of farms and farmers in Illinois, he says, —

Let me cite a few facts which I know to be true, however large they may seem to be. Mr. Peter C. Rea, who resided twelve years in Raritan, near Clover Hill, and emigrated to Illinois, Fulton County, in the early part of this year, told me he had raised and sold more wheat since he had been there, than he had done in twelve years he had resided in Raritan. He simply raked together and burned the cornstalks in the spring, and without ploughing the ground, sowed it with spring wheat and harrowed it in, and in a few months reaped a fine crop of spring wheat. He has, besides, on his farm a good prospect for a crop of winter wheat. I ate at his house some bread made of the flour from his spring wheat, and it was as white and as good as any I ever ate in New Jersey. He also told me he should probably make as much money this year in Illinois as he did in twelve years in New Jersey.

I saw a farmer in Peoria County, who lived on a rented farm of eighty acres, for which he paid $200 rent for the land, and $26 for the house; he did all his work himself, except some help in planting corn; had one team of horses, and after paying his rent, and supporting his family, would clear one thousand dollars this year.

My friend, Mr. D. H. L. Sutphin, of Pike County, formerly of this county, had a field in with wheat, and harvested therefrom upwards of 3000 bushels. He hired every thing done, and if I remember correctly, had cleared, over and above all expenses, about $2000 by this operation. He introduced me to a gentleman by the name of Simpkins, in that

county, who came there a few years ago with nothing save his health and his hands. He was now farming, and he told us that he would sell this year produce from his farm amounting to between $17,000 and $18,000. I saw his hog-pen, containing 481 fat hogs, which would average 350 pounds each.

I am fearful that if I give you any larger facts than these, they may be doubted; but one more before I close. I was in Morgan County, and near Jacksonville was the farm of Mr. Funk, and I was told from a reliable source, that he sold that year $60,000 worth of cattle from off his farm. I know instances where men have done even better than this the past year; but it is needless to relate more particulars. If it would be proper, I could give you the names of men from this county, who were poor men when here, and probably would always have been poor men if they had remained here, who are now owning farms in Illinois, in some instances upwards of 300 acres, and getting rich fast. My opinion is, that there never was a more favorable time for emigrating to Illinois than the present. True, lands are greatly enhanced in value; but prices of grain are yearly approximating New York prices, and the good prairie land is better worth $100 per acre than our best New Jersey is worth $50.

LETTER FROM JOHN S. PEIRONNEL, ESQ.

PERU, ILLINOIS, *January* 1, 1856.

Hon. JOHN WILSON, Chicago.

Dear Sir: According to your request, I send you a statement of the corn I raised on a ten-acre lot formerly sold the Rev. William Uhl, (less half acre for road,) which I bought last April for thirty dollars per acre, ($300,) which I thought at the time a high price. Since then I have bought 90 acres more, at much higher rates, and am sorry I cannot buy more. I have formerly lived in Susquehanna County, Pennsylvania, for thirty-three years, and had a farm there, which I sold when coming West, two years since, for $41 25 per acre. Now, sir, I candidly say I get more corn off the ten acres I give you a description of, than can be raised off said farm in Pennsylvania, 60 acres. The nature of the prairie land is such, that ten acres can be cultivated easier than one in Pennsylvania. I market more grain this season than the whole township I came from in Pennsylvania, (Choconut;) and I candidly say, if my old neighbors and friends knew the beauty of this vast Western country, Susquehanna County would again become a wilderness.

I am, dear sir, your obt. servt.,

8 JNO. S. PEIRONNEL.

STATEMENT

OF THE EXPENDITURES, RECEIPTS, AND PROFITS OF THE FARM OF WM. P. WEST, OF BATAVIA, FOR 1853.

EDITORS PRAIRIE FARMER: In compliance with the request of Mr. Thomas Judd, one of the committee on farming, I submit the following in relation to the cost of raising the various crops, viz.: —

Twenty-three Acres Winter Wheat.

1852.		Dr.
June.	To breaking 23 acres, 3 inches deep, at $1 50 per acre,	$34 50
Aug.	To 8 days' cross-ploughing, 4 inches deep, at $2,	16 00
Sept. 1.	To 46 bushels Soule's seed wheat, at 75 c. per bushel,	34 50
do.	To 2 days' work sowing the same, at $1,	2 00
do.	To 6 days' work, harrowing, at $2 per day,	12 00
1853.		
July 15.	To cost harvesting 23 acres, at $1 50 per acre,	34 50
do.	To threshing 690 bushels, at 8 c. per bushel,	55 20
do.	To hauling the same to market, at 2 c.,	13 80
		$202 50

1853.		Cr.
By 30 bushels per acre, 690 bushels, at 95 c.,		$655 50
Cost,		202 50
Net profits,		$453 00
	Cost per acre,	$8 80
	Net profits per acre,	19 70

Seventeen and a half Acres Winter Wheat on Corn Ground.

1852.		Dr.
Aug. 20.	To sowing 1½ days, at $1 per day,	$1 50
do.	To 35 bushels Soule's seed wheat, at 75 c.,	26 25
do.	To 4 days' work, man, horse, and shovel plough, at $1 50,	6 00
do.	To 2 days' work, man, horse, and small harrow, at $1 50,	3 00
do.	To 6 days' work, hoeing in wheat around hills,	6 00
1853.		
July 10.	Cost harvesting 17½ acres, at $1 50 per acre,	26 25
do.	To threshing 394 bushels, at 8 c. per bushel,	31 52
do.	To carting 214 bushels to market, at 2 c. per bushel,	4 28
Total cost,		$104 80

1853.		Cr.
	By 22½ bushels per acre,	394 bushels.

214 bushels, sold at 95 c. per bushel,			$203 30
180 bushels, sold at farm, at $1 per bushel,			180 00
			383 30
Cost,			104 80
Net profits, 17½ acres,			$278 50
Cost per acre,		$5 98	
Net profits per acre,		15 91	

Twelve Acres of Oats.

1853.			Dr.
April 15.	To 5 days' ploughing, at $2,		$10 00
do.	To 4 days' harrowing, at $2,		8 00
do.	To 36 bushels oats for seed, and 1 day's work at $1,		10 00
do.	To threshing, $42, harvesting, $18,		60 00
Total,			$88 00
1853.			Cr.
By 87½ bushels per acre, making 1050 bushels, at 25 c.,			$262 50
Cost,			88 00
Net profits,			$174 50
Cost per acre,		$7 33	
Net profits per acre,		14 54	

Nine and a half Acres of Spring Wheat.

1852.			Dr.
Sept.	To 5 days' ploughing, 8 inches deep, at $2,		$10 00
do.	To 19 bushels Rio seed wheat, at 75 c.,		14 25
1853.			
March 25.	1 day's sowing the same,		$1 00
	3 days' work, harrowing, at $2,		6 00
	Cost harvesting 9½ acres, at $1 50 per acre,		14 25
	Cost threshing 228 bushels, at 8 c.,		18 24
	To carting the same to market, at 2 c.,		4 56
Total cost,			$68 30
1853.			Cr.
By 9½ acres, 24 bushels per acre, 228 bushels, at $1,			$228 00
Cost,			68 30
Net profits,			$159 70
Cost per acre,		$7 20	
Net profits per acre,		16 81	

Two and a quarter Acres of Winter Rye.

1852.		Dr.
Sept.	To ploughing 1 day, $2,	$2 00
	To 4 bushels seed, 50 c.,	2 00
	To sowing and harrowing, one day,	2 00
1853.		
July 1.	To harvesting the same,	3 75
	To threshing 50 bushels rye, at 8 c.,	4 00
	To carting the same to market, at 2 c.,	1 00
Total cost,		$14 75

1853.		Cr.
By 2¼ acres, 22 bushels and 7 qts. per acre, 50 bushels, at 50 c.,		$25 00
Cost,		14 75
Net profits,		$10 25
	Cost per acre, $6 56	
	Net profits per acre, 4 55	

Five and a half Acres of Barley.

1853.		Dr.
April.	To 2½ days' ploughing, at $2,	$5 00
	To 12 bushels seed, at 40 c.,	4 80
	To 1 day's work, sowing same,	1 00
	To 1½ days' work, harrowing, $2,	3 00
	To harvesting 5½ acres, at $1 50,	8 25
	To carting 182 bushels to market, at 2 c.,	3 64
	Threshing the same, at 8 c.,	14 56
Total cost,		$40 25

1853.		Cr.
By 5½ acres, 33 bushels 3 qts. per acre, 182 bushels, at 40 c.,		$72 80
Cost,		40 25
Net profits,		$32 55
	Cost per acre, $7 32	
	Net profits per acre, 5 92	

Twenty-eight and a half Acres Corn.

One half of this was fall ploughed, the balance Timothy sod, broke May 1st, 1853, 7 inches deep. Cost of tending, about the same as fall ploughing.

	Dr.
To 28½ acres ploughing, at $1 per acre,	$28 50
To 5 days' harrowing, at $2,	10 00
To 4 bushels seed corn, 75 c.,	3 00

To 9½ days' planting, 7s.,	8 31
To 26 days' cultivating corn, $1 18,	30 50
To 12 days' hoeing, 88 c.,	10 56
To 57 days' husking, $1,	57 00
Shelling and marketing 1710 bushels, at 4 c.,	68 40
Total cost,	$216 27

	Cr.
By 28½ acres, 60 bushels per acre, 1710 bushels, at 50 c.,	$855 00
Cost,	216 27
Net profits,	$638 73
Cost per acre, $7 59	
Net profits per acre, 22 41	

One Acre Potatoes.

1853.	Dr.
To cost of raising,	$10 00
	Cr.
By 150 bushels potatoes, 25 c.,	$37 50
Net profits,	$27 50

One hundred and three Sheep.

	Dr.
To cutting and stacking 25 tons hay, at $1,	$25 00
To feeding 30 bushels corn, 50 c.,	15 00
To feeding and salt,	10 00
To washing and shearing sheep, and marketing wool,	10 00
Total cost,	$60 00

	Cr.
By 103 fleeces, average 3 lbs. 10 oz., 373 lbs., at 46 c.,	$171 58
By 53 lambs, $1 25,	66 25
	$237 83
Cost,	60 00
Net profits,	$177 83

Fifteen Head of Cattle and one Colt.

	Dr.
To cost keeping to hay,	$24 00
To 25 bushels corn feed, 50 c.,	12 50
To labor and salt,	10 50
Total cost,	$47 00

	Cr.
By growth on cattle and colt,	$150 00
Cost,	47 00
Net profits,	$103 00
Dr. To fatting one sow and four pigs, 80 bushels corn, at 50 c.,	40 00
Cr. By 1500 lbs. of pork, at 5 c. per lb.,	75 00
Net profits,	$35 00
25 bushels apples, $1,	$25 00
8 bushels peaches, $1,	8 00
5 swarms bees, $5,	25 00
50 lbs. honey, 12½ c.,	6 25
24 turkeys, 50 c.,	12 00
60 chickens, 12½ c.,	7 50
	$83 75
Cost of keeping the above,	10 00
Net profits,	$73 75

Twenty-one Acres Timothy Seed.

Dr. To harvesting, threshing, and cleaning,	$45 00
Cr. By 84 bushels, at $2 per bushel,	168 00
Net profits,	$123 00

Recapitulation.

	Cost of growing.	Net profits.
23 acres of wheat,	$202 50	$453 00
17½ acres wheat,	104 80	278 50
9½ acres spring wheat,	68 30	159 70
2¼ acres rye,	14 75	10 25
5½ acres barley,	40 25	32 55
12 acres oats,	88 00	174 50
28½ acres corn,	216 27	638 73
1 acre potatoes,	10 00	27 50
103 sheep,	60 00	177 83
Cattle and colt,	47 00	103 00
Pork,	40 00	35 00
Apples, Peaches, Bees, Turkeys, &c.,	10 00	73 75
21 acres Timothy seed,	45 00	123 00
Total,	$946 87	$2,287 31

Number of acres, 240. Paying an interest on the whole farm of 240 acres, at a valuation of $158 88 per acre, at 6 per ct.

WM. P. WEST, *Batavia, Illinois.*

EXTRACTS FROM "A GLANCE AT ILLINOIS."

Published by A. Campbell, Esq., La Salle, Ill.

CLIMATE.

The climate of this portion of the Western Country is rather milder than in the same latitudes upon the Atlantic slopes; the winters being somewhat less severe, and the autumns rather longer. The rivers, as far north as the 41st parallel of latitude, usually open as early as the 15th of February to the 1st of March, and do not close before the 15th to the 20th of December. In fact, we sometimes have boats running every month in the year.

It is well adapted to the cultivation of all the different grains and grasses, apples, peaches, and every other kind of fruit raised in this latitude; as fruit and other trees grow with great rapidity and luxuriance upon our rich prairie soil. The grape is successfully cultivated in the southern part of the State, and native wine is made there to some extent.

HEALTH.

In point of health, the State of Illinois will compare favorably with any other of equal fertility in the Union. For, although some portions, in the vicinity of low grounds and river bottoms, are occasionally subjected to epidemics of fever and ague in the autumn, there exists upon the open prairie no local cause of disease. In the first settlement of Illinois, the opinion prevailed that the prairies were uninhabitable; and, consequently, the immigrants settled in the groves, and along the banks of streams, where the greatest sources of unhealthiness — if there were any — existed. Moreover, they usually arrived in the country worn out and dispirited, from long journeys in loaded carts and wagons, encamping at night on the way in heavy dews and storms, suffering for weeks every form of unaccustomed privation and exposure; or, after tedious voyages, crowded into what is called the "steerage" of wretched steamboats, where all manner of discomfort was suffered, from exposure to wet and cold, bad water and bad provisions — the latter often in insufficient quantity. And, after arriving at their destinations, they were scarcely better off; being crowded in large numbers into such small log cabins or huts as the exigencies of their condition would allow of being temporarily provided; drinking bad water from the "sloughs," and even suffering for long periods from improper and insufficient food, whereby pernicious fevers and many other fearful diseases were endangered — diseases which at that time were erroneously attributed, not to their true source, but to causes supposed to exist in the climate.

But since the construction of railroads into and through every part of the State; since the settlements have been more generally made upon the open, rolling prairies; since the people have been able to provide themselves readily with good habitations, and other comforts and conveniences, and are exempted from the inevitable hardships of pioneer life, Illinois will compare favorably with any other portion of our common country, of like fertility. An abundance of the best water can be reached at from 15 to 30 feet below the surface on our prairies; and no cause of disease is traceable to this source, except where it has been, as in some cases, habitually used from "sloughs" and stagnant streams. I am also informed by the most respectable physicians, that Consumption, that fearful scourge of the human race, is not a disease of this climate; where it occurs here, it being almost universally in those who have brought it with them, or in whom it is in a marked degree hereditary. It is also a curious fact, that persons suffering from asthma, or "phthisic," have been greatly relieved, or, in some instances, permanently cured, by a residence in this climate.

SOIL.

As to the character of the soil of our prairie lands, there is very little dissimilarity in it, from the valley of the Wabash to the Missouri River. It is generally a dark, rich, sandy loam, from 18 to 30 inches in depth. The surface, for the most part, is gently undulating, though some portions are more rolling, and less desirable for farming purposes. Where the surface is very broken, the land, when brought under cultivation, is subject to wash into the low grounds and streams. High ground thus becomes, by the removal of the soil, quite barren in a few years. A small portion of the lands have the opposite objection of being more level than is desirable. Where this is the case, the water does not drain off, and the crop is injured. Those lands are to be preferred which are just sufficiently undulating for thorough drainage; though it is desirable to have about one fourth of a farm wet enough for good meadow or grass land.

As to the matter of bringing these lands under cultivation, it may be well to state, for the benefit of those unacquainted, that it is usual to commence breaking the sward about the first of May; and to continue until about the middle of July. It is customary to plant corn upon all that is broken up before the first of June. The corn planted in this manner, — sod corn, as it is called — requires no working, and yields from 20 to 30 bushels per acre. What is broken after the first of June, is generally sown with winter wheat, or left until the following spring, when it is in good condition for any kind of spring crop. The winter

wheat is put in with the drill, or by harrowing, without second ploughing, and is usually as productive as any other crop.

Eastern people have doubtless heard that heavy teams of from 4 to 6 yoke of cattle are required for the first breaking up of prairie. But this is only necessary where the large plough is used, which cuts a furrow of from 24 to 30 inches. A span of good horses, however, with a plough which turns a ten inch furrow, will easily break an acre and a quarter a day.

After these lands are once brought under cultivation, two good farm hands, with two span of good horses, can attend 70 acres of corn, and 30 acres of wheat, with the help of a hand or two during corn planting and wheat harvest; a large amount of the labor upon the farm, such as mowing, reaping, and threshing, being done by machinery. Corn is now mostly planted with the drill, and requires no other working than what is done with the plough or cultivator. As our winters are usually mild, there being but little snow, and the corn suffering no damage by remaining in the field, it can be harvested at the farmer's convenience, at any time during the fall or winter. And the cost of any extra hire, beyond the two hands before mentioned, need not exceed $100 for 100 acres.

We cannot expect to find, in any country, numerous and great advantages, without some deficiencies. Nature operates by compensations; and where she has been munificent in many gifts, there are always some which she seems to have withholden. Prominent among the latter, in Illinois, and that which has constituted the greatest objection to the State, in the minds of many, is the scarcity of timber. But here, again, art has abundantly triumphed, and turned seeming disadvantages to valuable account. For, with so many and so easy means of transportation, by navigation upon lakes, rivers, canals, and by our numerous railroads, timber and fuel can be furnished to all parts of the State, at about as easy rates as in any other portion of the country.

There are immense forests of the choicest pine and other timbers on the borders of our great lakes, enormous quantities of which are manufactured into lumber of every description, and shipped to Chicago, from whence it is distributed to every part of the State, by means of the canal and the numerous railroads diverging from that city. The freights from the different points of supply on the lakes to Chicago, range from $1 50 to $3 per thousand feet. The usual tariff upon our railroads is about $3 per thousand feet per 100 miles. There are also large bodies of pine and other timber upon the tributaries of the Upper Mississippi River, in Wisconsin and Minnesota, which is likewise manufactured and floated down that stream to all points on our western border, from whence it is carried into all parts of the interior by railroad.

A large portion of Southern Illinois is covered with a heavy growth of valuable timber, and, already, there are numerous saw mills in operation, and others being constructed, along the line of the Illinois Central Railroad, by which avenue it is carried north to the interior. On the east are the extensive forests of Indiana and Southern Michigan, which are rendered accessible by the several railroads passing through them.

Besides which, there are also valuable bodies of timber along the numerous watercourses, and large groves interspersed over the prairies throughout the interior of the State. Although this timber is not so well suited to the manufacture of lumber, it is yet valuable for fencing and fuel.

COAL.

As if Nature had anticipated the inconvenience to which the inhabitants of the prairies would be subjected by the scarcity of timber for fuel, she provided as a compensation for that deficiency, long beforehand, by carefully storing beneath their surface an almost unlimited supply of excellent mineral or stone coal. Nearly the entire State is underlaid with it, south of a line running west from the southern extremity of Lake Michigan. It is found at a short distance below the surface, and crops out upon the banks of most of the streams in that part of the State.

This article, which must ultimately become a source of vast wealth to this region of country, is already attracting the attention of capitalists; and mining is being carried on extensively along the line of the canal, rivers, and railroads, in different parts of the State.

Mining is largely done on the line of the Chicago, Burlington and Quincy Railroad, in the Counties of Stark and Knox, by means of shafts sunk in the prairie, immediately on the line of the road; also on the line of the Chicago and Rock Island Railroad, in the Counties of Grundy, La Salle, Bureau, and Rock Island. Extensive works are in operation at the City of Rock Island, where a large amount is mined from the outcrop of the veins in that vicinity.

At La Salle, all three of the beds are worked by means of "drifts." There are some 12 to 15 openings on the banks of the canal, and in the valley of the Little Vermilion and contiguous ravines. Besides supplying the cities of La Salle and Peru, it is shipped in large quantities, to all points on the Galena Branch of the Illinois Central Railroad, as far north as Dunleith, on the Mississippi River. The demand for it here has already become so great that, notwithstanding the very high price of $3 50 per ton is demanded for it, delivered upon the railroad cars, even double the amount which is now taken out would meet with ready sale at

that price. Several shafts are now being sunk, with a view to mining on a much larger scale, by means of stationary engines; and before the close of another year, the quantity supplied will amount to thousands of tons, where it is now only hundreds.

Mining is also done at various points on the Big Vermilion, on the south side of the Illinois River, and the coal is carried to the neighboring stations on the Central Railroad by wagon.

In view of the extent of these mines, and their advantageous position with reference to shipments, as well as the good quality of the coal, we think this locality well worthy the attention of all who may desire to invest capital, or engage in any manner in the business of coal mining.

Coal is also found in the bluffs of the Illinois River, from La Salle to near its mouth, at several points on which mining operations are largely carried on. The most prominent of these works are at Peoria, Pekin, and Kingston.

There are also extensive and valuable mines on the line of the Illinois Central Railroad, in the southern part of the State. Those at Du Quoin and De Soto are yielding an abundance, of good quality.

Examinations by boring have been made, and coal discovered, at various other points on the line of this road farther north, as well as upon the line of the Chicago, Alton and St. Louis Railroad.

The deposit at Danville, in Vermilion County, is of great extent and good quality. The Great Western Railroad, which passes through Danville, crosses this field from east to west. The Chicago and Danville Coal Mining Company have made arrangements for working these mines extensively, with a view to supplying the country along the line of the Chicago Branch of the Illinois Central Railroad, as well as the Chicago market.

The Geological Survey, now going on in the State, under the direction of Dr. Norwood, State Geologist, shows also that the supply throughout that portion of the State above mentioned is almost without limit, promising a future to Illinois of untold wealth and greatness; as we not only have an abundance for domestic and manufacturing purposes for ourselves, but also for our friends of Wisconsin, and other neighboring States, which may be destitute.

Thus, with the abundant means we enjoy for supplying our demands for lumber, with the immense beds of coal beneath our feet for fuel, and with the facilities offered by our lake, rivers, canal, and railroads, for distributing these to every part of the State, from the ports and stations upon which the farmer, when marketing his produce, can return with his supplies of these needful commodities, without loss of time, and with but little inconvenience, the broad prairies, which have heretofore consti-

tuted the greatest objection to this country in the minds of superficial observers, prove to be a source of the highest advantage to the State. The lands being at once ready for the plough, a good farm can be opened in one, or, at most, two years; whereas, in a heavily timbered country, it requires a lifetime of toil to accomplish a result no greater.

Before the construction of railroads through the interior of the State, the only avenues to market were by the Lake and the Illinois and Mississippi Rivers. This circumstance had the effect of directing the first settlers more particularly to the borders of these streams, and to the vicinity of the Lakes; so that the narrow tract of country between them and the northern and western part of the State came to be first occupied; leaving that large and fertile portion south and east of the Illinois — except along its border — comparatively uninhabited; there being no means of reaching markets from there, except by wagons.

But this region is now traversed by the Illinois Central Railroad, the Chicago Branch of the same, and by the Chicago, Alton and St. Louis Railroad, from north to south, as well as by several others from east to west. And if its advantages in respect to markets were, in days past, of the most meagre description, they have now become of the best; as there are equal facilities existing here for reaching Chicago or St. Louis with any other part of the State; besides which, the Illinois Central Railroad affords an outlet to the mouth of the Ohio, at Cairo; below which the navigation of the Mississippi is very rarely, if ever, obstructed by ice or low water. Thus giving command of the Southern market throughout the year.

Notwithstanding these advantages, lands are still comparatively cheap in this section of the State, on account of the large tracts thus at once made available, and brought into market, by the construction of these roads. Although scarcely two years have elapsed since the opening of these roads, this region of country, so recently a comparative wilderness, is rapidly settling; villages are springing up at all the different stations, with their schools, churches, and other social privileges and improvements.

The following is the result of the late census in a few of the most interior counties, showing their population in 1850 and 1855, increase, and per cent.

	1850.	1855.	Increase.	Per cent.
McLean,	10,163	19,578	9,415	92⅔
De Witt,	5,002	8,508	3,506	70⅕
Macon,	3,988	8,365	4,377	109¾
Piatt,	1,606	3,053	1,446	90
Champaign,	2,649	6,566	3,917	148
Livingston,	1,552	4,606	3,054	196⅞

Much the largest portion of this increase has accrued within the last two years; which is to be attributed mainly to the opening of the railroads through this formerly remote district.

ILLINOIS CENTRAL RAILROAD LANDS.

In addition to the great opportunities now offered for purchasing lands of private individuals in this district, the most favorable inducements are afforded to settlers with small means, by the Illinois Central Railroad Company. This Company received from the State, to aid in the construction of their road, an amount of land equal to the alternate sections, for six miles on each side of the line of the road and its branches. To make up for any that might have been sold of the sections, in the order prescribed, — before the General Government made the grant to the State, — the Company were allowed the privilege of extending their claim to *fifteen* miles on either side, so far as might be necessary to make up the deficiency.* As the lands in the northern part of the State had been, previously, almost entirely taken up, by far the larger portion of the selections were necessarily made on that part of the main trunk between La Salle and Cairo; and the Chicago branch between Chicago and Centralia.

And this vast tract is now thrown open for sale by the Company, *to settlers only*, on the most convenient terms. The prices range from five to twenty-five dollars per acre, according to quality and distance from stations; the latter price being for those having a prospective value, on account of proximity to important villages, or mineral deposits.

The terms of payment are as follows, viz.: 1st. Two years' interest in advance on the amount of the purchase money, at the rate of 3 per cent. per annum. 2d. At the end of two years, one fifth of the purchase money, with one year's interest in advance on the balance, at the same rate. 3d. At the end of the third year, another fifth of the original price, with one year's interest in advance, on the residue; and so on, until the whole is paid.

Now, although these prices may seem high, when compared with that of lands at the Government price of $1 25 per acre, let us see how they will compare, when purchased by the farmer, who wants them for actual cultivation, with those at from 200 to 300 miles farther distant from markets, at the Government rates: Suppose we take a farm of 160 acres, 100 miles from Chicago, on the line of this road or its branches;

* In consideration of this grant, the Illinois Central Railroad Company is obligated to pay to the State 7 per cent. of the gross earnings of the road, forever. It is estimated that this will become a source of revenue to the State of $250,000 annually.

in order to secure a choice tract, and to be within such a distance from a station that the farmer, when marketing his produce or receiving his supplies, can make conveniently two trips a day; put the price at $12 50 per acre — which amount will secure such a location — say $2000 00

First payment of 2 years' interest in advance, at the rate of 3 per cent. per annum,		120 00
Second payment, at the end of 2 years, with one fifth of the purchase money,	$400 00	
One year's interest on the balance,	48 00	— 448 00
Third payment, at the end of 3 years; one fifth of purchase money,	$400 00	
And 3 per cent. in advance on the balance still remaining,	36 00	— 436 00
Fourth payment, at the end of 4 years; one fifth of the purchase money,	$400 00	
One year's interest on the balance,	24 00	— 424 00
Fifth payment, at the end of 5 years; one fifth of purchase money,	$400 00	
One year's interest on the balance,	12 00	— 412 00
Sixth, and last payment, at the end of 6 years; being one fifth of the original amount of purchase money,		400 00
Total,		$2,240 00

If we take a farm of 160 acres in the vicinity of Fort Des Moines, in Iowa, at $1 25 per acre for a second locality, the cost would be but $200 00.

Now, if the lands in each locality were appropriated exclusively to the raising of grain, the result would be thus: All that could be done the first year would be the breaking of 100 acres of ground, raising the vegetables for the family, and the crop of sod corn — which would provide amply for the stock — and the sowing of 30 acres of fall wheat; together with making necessary fences, and other arrangements incident to a beginning; then, the second spring, there would be 70 acres planted with corn, which in the fall would produce 3500 bushels. And the 30 acres of wheat would produce 600 bushels. If you retain 900 bushels corn for stock, and fattening animals for family use, you would have for market, at the end of the second year, 400 bushels of wheat, 2600 bushels of corn; total, 3000 bushels of grain for market; the transportation of which from the locality in the vicinity of Fort Des Moines, in Iowa, 367 miles west of Chicago, would cost, at 29 cents per bushel, $870 00; whilst the transportation on the same amount from a point 100 miles from Chicago, would be but $240 00; which shows a difference in favor of the latter, annually, of $630 00. From which deduct the

amount of first payment, at the end of the second year, on the farm 100 miles distant from Chicago, $448 00, leaving $182 00, which would be the balance in favor of the latter over the former, after making the payment at the end of the second year.

At the end of the third year, the amount of products would be the same, viz.: 2600 bushels of corn, and 400 bushels of wheat, — in all, 3000 bushels; the cost of transportation of which from Fort Des Moines to Chicago, would be, as before, $870 00. While the cost of the same amount from the point 100 miles from Chicago, would be but $240 00, showing a balance still in favor of the latter over the former of $630 00. From which deduct the third payment, $436 00, and you have in favor of the Illinois farm, at the end of the third year, after making the third payment, $194 00. And so on, until the end of the sixth year, when the farmer will have saved the sum of $1110 00, after paying for the land at the rate of $12 50 per acre, by selecting his farm 100 miles from Chicago, in preference to one at Fort Des Moines.

This is the amount saved, without taking into account the greater value of the land at the end of that period, by being in nearer proximity to market. Now, the difference, annually, in the value of the crop upon the farm within 100 miles of Chicago, over that at Fort Des Moines, is $630 00, which is the interest, at 6 per cent., upon $10,500 00; or equal to $65 62½ per acre, on a farm of 160 acres.

To demonstrate the foregoing: — The cost of a farm of 160 acres, near Fort Des Moines, at the Government price of $1 25 per acre, is		$200 00
Cost of transporting its products to Chicago, on Lake Michigan, as given above, would be, annually, ...	$870 00	
This, for 5 years, would amount to		4,350 00
And you have, as the cost of the farm, and marketing its products at Chicago, for 5 years, ...		$4,550 00
Whilst the farm within 100 miles of Chicago, on the line of the Central Railroad, or its branches, at $12 50 per acre, with the interest thereon, would amount to		2,240 00
The cost of carrying its products to Chicago, would be at the same rates, annually, but	$240 00	
Which, in 5 years, would amount to		1,200 00
And you have, as the total cost of the farm, and expenses of marketing at Chicago, for 5 years, ...		$3,440 00
Showing a gain in 5 years, after paying for the land, at $12 50 per acre, in favor of the farm within 100 miles of Chicago, over the one at Fort Des Moines, at $1 25 per acre, of		1,110 00

Besides which, it must be borne in mind that the Central Railroad

lands are not subject to taxation until the end of the sixth year, when the final payment is to be made.

The question might arise, whether a farmer, purchasing a farm of the Central Railroad Company, upon the terms they propose, would be likely to realize enough from his crops to make his payments and maintain his family. Of this there would seem to be no reasonable doubt; for, if wheat will bring but $1 20 in New York, it would net him 90 cents at home, allowing him 27 cents per bushel for freights, and 3 cents a bushel for the incidental expenses of marketing. And after deducting for freight and other charges, allow 10 per cent. to the grain buyer, and he would still have 81 cents, as the return for his wheat. We will suppose corn to bring 70 cents in New York; then deduct 30 cents for freight and other charges, and 10 per cent. for the grain dealer, and he would have 36 cents for his corn at the railroad station. Thus: —

400 bushels wheat, at 81 cents, ...	$324 00	
2600 bushels corn, at 36 cents, ...	936 00	
Total, ...		$1,260 00
From which deduct the hire of one hand during the year, and another for six months, ...	$300 00	
To which add the first payment on the lands, as before stated,	448 00	
Total, ...		$748 00
This deducted from the receipts for crops, would leave a balance in his hands, annually, of		$512 00

In the calculations upon which this is based, we have reserved 200 bushels of wheat, — an amount quite large enough for bread and seed, — and 900 bushels of corn for working stock and fattening animals for family use. This reservation of corn contemplates not only a provision for a reasonable number of working and fatting animals, but also for the natural increase of the stock. The avails of which increase, with butter, cheese, poultry, eggs, &c., — which command high prices in this country, — together with potatoes and other vegetables, easily raised from the lands reserved for that purpose, will be amply sufficient to defray all reasonable current expenses of the family.

It will be recollected, that this is based upon the supposition that the labor upon the farm is hired, except that of one man. But if a farmer have boys from 14 to 16 years of age, these will be of as much service in ploughing and other light work suited to their strength, as men; and in that case, the necessity of hiring will be obviated.

At the end of the 6th year, the stock on the farm of 160 acres would be worth at least as much as in the commencement. And if one half

the amount which could be annually saved, after making payments on land and providing for family, were invested in improvements on the farm, it would certainly then be worth from $8000 to $10,000, surrounded as it would then be with a good neighborhood, improved social advantages, and various resources for rational enjoyment.

COST OF OPENING FARM.

The inquiry is often made as to the amount of means requisite for opening a farm in Illinois. It must be apparent that this will depend upon the size, the conveniences and comforts provided, and the plan of farming adopted.

It may be first remarked, in addition to what has already been stated, that good clay for brick is found in almost all localities here, by removing the prairie soil; while in and around the groves it is found upon the surface. So that brick can be obtained about as cheaply as in any other part of the country. There is, also, as has been said, good limestone rock, in abundance, in the banks of nearly all the streams, which is easily quarried, and the cost of such material is moderate. So that with our railroad facilities for transporting lumber, and the materials we have already here, building can be done nearly as cheaply as in the Eastern States. It is most usual, however, — being generally the most convenient, — for settlers to erect for themselves framed houses, which can be built at about the following rates: —

A house 14 feet by 26, one story high, plainly and comfortably finished, divided into two rooms, plastered and painted, can be built for from $225 to $250, which is about the cheapest kind of a house which can be furnished, that will comfortably accommodate a small family; though one a story and a half high, 16 by 28 feet, divided into three rooms above and two below, with pantry, plastered and painted throughout, ready for use, would cost about $400 to $425. There are parties who are willing to contract to furnish all materials, and fully complete houses of this description, at the prices named, in from 4 to 6 weeks. And houses of larger dimensions, at proportionate rates and length of time.

The digging and stoning of a well, in ordinary situations, will cost from $20 to $30. It will require about $100 to erect the necessary sheds and stables for cattle and horses. Hay and grain are usually stacked out, and are as well preserved as if housed. Good cows can be bought for about $30. A yoke of good working oxen is worth from $80 to $100. Good farm horses are worth from $100 to $125. Harness costs about the same as elsewhere. A proper kind of breaking plough

costs $16. Common ploughs, $8 to $10 each. A reaping machine costs about $175, and the same machine may be readily adapted to mowing. Threshing machines can be bought at from $175 to $300.

It is customary for a number of farmers to join together in purchasing these expensive implements, and to work them in common, in cutting and threshing their several crops of wheat and oats; as well as for cutting their hay. Other necessary farming utensils are procured at prices about the same as in the East.

The cost of fencing will of course depend upon the amount. The usual mode employed is with boards, until the hedge is grown. Two boards will generally answer against cattle, — hogs not being allowed to run at large. As it is customary, in many places upon our large prairies, for farmers, by common consent, to enclose all their stock for the first few years, — a few acres only being required for this purpose, — but a very small amount of fencing is necessary, until the farmer can either raise his hedge, or at least have grain for market, when he can get his lumber for fencing at the railroad stations, with but little loss of time or inconvenience.

If 160 acres of ground be taken up and farmed after the manner heretofore described, a house of the larger size would be required; 4 horses; 2 breaking ploughs; 2 common ploughs; 2 cultivators, and 2 harrows; and other farming utensils in the same proportion. But if only 80 acres were farmed, a house of the smaller size would answer, but one span of horses, and other stock and farming implements in proportion.

The foregoing statements touching the subject of farming, have been made with strict reference to facts which have presented themselves to my mind, with abundant opportunities for observation, during five years past. The majority of our most judicious and industrious farmers would doubtless consider the estimates of profits given as quite too low. But the object has been to show what are the average reliable results, taking one year with another, under ordinary circumstances — not merely to give the limit of possibilities.

In showing the relative value of lands, I have compared western lands with western lands only; but if we were to place these in competition with those of the Eastern States, the preponderance would still be in favor of western lands generally, for farming purposes. For when we take into account the ease and cheapness of cultivation, — no manure and a comparatively small amount of labor being required, — these qualities more than compensate for any extra cost of transportation.

POPULATION.

I had intended, in the beginning of this, to give some statistics of population in the State; the increase of agricultural productions, and of the growth of our cities and villages, which have arisen here within the last few years, as if by enchantment. But having already far exceeded the limits I had first prescribed for myself, I can only add, in conclusion, a few words in reference to population.

The population of the State in June, 1850, was . . .	851,470
By the census taken July 1, 1855, it was shown to be . .	1,300,200
Increase in five years, ...	448,730
This shows the annual average increase to have been . .	89,746

But as there was a large emigration to California and other parts of the country west, during the year ending July 1, 1851, whilst the immigration during the same period was small, the increase during that year could not have exceeded 40,000.

For the year ending July 1, 1852, as the emigration had somewhat diminished and the immigration had increased, it would be safe to place the gain during that year at 50,000.

During the year ending July 1, 1853, the emigration had still further diminished, whilst the immigration had exceeded that of any previous year; and the increase for that year would not probably vary much from 75,000.

During the year ending July 1, 1854, the only emigration from the State was from the central and southern portions into the adjoining States; and as the railroads had then fairly begun to open the whole interior to market, — which tended greatly to increase immigration, — I think the increase that year could not have been less than 112,000.

During the year ending July 1, 1855, the emigration had nearly ceased; and the railroads having reached almost every part of the interior, while there was a still larger influx of immigrants, the increase reached 166,746.

During the current year, ending July 1, 1856, as all portions of the State are now opened to market, and the emigration having almost entirely ceased, we are safe in setting down the increase this year at 200,000.

And from the vast purchases of land by those who contemplate removing hither the coming season, the accessibility of every part of the State, and the tide of population now fairly flowing in this direction, I can see nothing to prevent a continuance of this increase for the next four years. In which case, there will be a population in the State, in 1860, of two millions and three hundred thousand.

A. CAMPBELL.

La Salle, February 1, 1856.

ILLINOIS WHEAT IN THE LONDON MARKET.

VERDICT OF A CORN FACTOR.

Last season the Illinois Central Railroad Company caused to be sent to the London Corn Exchange a number of varieties of Illinois wheat, grown in different portions of the State. The samples were submitted to Mr. J. Exeley, an experienced corn factor, whose report we now present to our readers: —

REPORT OF MR. J. EXELEY ON SAMPLES OF ILLINOIS WHEAT RECEIVED FROM THE ILLINOIS CENTRAL RAILROAD COMPANY.

No. 1. Winter Red Chaff, La Salle County —A nice quality, but not of great strength in flour — now worth in Mark Lane 73 s. per quarter, imperial — will weigh about 62 lbs. per bushel.

No. 2. Union County — A splendid sample of red — will weigh in every opinion fully 65 lbs. per imperial bushel — would command 70 s. per quarter if here now. Its berry is about the size of English "Nursery Red" — much approved by the town millers.

No. 3. White Winter Wheat, Union County — Resembles our "Chidham" — worth 74 s. per imperial quarter — weighs about 62 lbs. per bushel.

No. 4. White Winter, Blue Stem, Perry County — A very fine and strong quality — fully 63 lbs. — worth 74 s. per imperial quarter.

No. 5. Red Winter Wheat, Mediterranean, Perry County — Strong and heavy — 64 lbs. per bushel — such as we get from Leghorn — worth 68 s. per imperial quarter.

No. 6. Red Winter Wheat, Velvet Chaff, Perry County — Prime, worth 68 s. per imperial quarter — will weigh 63 lbs.

No. 7. White Winter Wheat, Perry County — 63 lbs. per bushel — worth 74 s. per imperial quarter — fine and salable.

No. 8. Spring Wheat, Perry County — good 63 lbs. — worth 66 s. per imperial quarter.

No. 9. La Salle County — Fair quality — worth 65 s. per imperial quarter — 62 lbs. per bushel.

No. 10. La Salle County — About 62 lbs. per bushel — worth 64 s. per imperial quarter.

No. 11. La Salle County, Red Spring — About 62 lbs. — worth 64 s.

No. 12. McLean County — A nice quality — about 62 lbs. — worth 66 s. per imperial quarter.

No. 13. McLean County — White Winter Wheat — worth 74 s. per imperial quarter, prime — useful sample.

No. 14. Iroquois County, White Winter — Very heavy — 64 lbs. per bushel — worth 74 s. per imperial quarter.

No. 15. Iroquois County, Prime Wheat — 64 lbs. per bushel — worth 74 s. per imperial quarter.

No. 16. Iroquois County, Winter Wheat — 62 lbs. per imperial bushel — worth 72 s. per quarter.

No. 17. Will County, Winter Wheat — Worth 74 s. per imperial quarter — weighs about 63 lbs. per imperial bushel.

No. 18. Will County, Winter Wheat — 74 s. per imperial quarter — weighs 63 lbs. per imperial bushel.

No. 19. DeWitt County, White Winter Wheat — 73 s. per quarter — weighs about 62 lbs. per bushel.

No. 20. Kankakee County, White Winter Wheat — Worth 73 s. per quarter — about 62 lbs per bushel.

No. 21. Lee County, Spring Red — About 64 lbs. per bushel — worth 68 s. per imperial quarter.

No. 22. Marshall County, Fair White Wheat, Winter — About 62 lbs. per bushel — worth 72 s. per imperial quarter.

No. 23. Union County, White Winter — About 63 lbs. — worth 73 s. per imperial quarter.

No. 24. Macon County — Fair quality — about 62 lbs. — worth 72 s per quarter.

No. 25. Williamson County, Red Winter Wheat — 64 lbs. per imperial bushel — prime sample — worth 68 s. per quarter.

N. B. All the samples are in the best condition, and cleanly dressed, in both respects better than the cargoes arrive, and the whole would bear the passage well, and no doubt come out in good order. I never saw a finer specimen of samples from the United States together.

(Signed) J. EXELEY.

November 27, 1856.

AGRICULTURAL RESOURCES OF ILLINOIS.

CROP OF 1855.

Much as we have said from time to time upon the wonderful agricultural resources of our State, we are convinced, nevertheless, that they are appreciated by but very few of our citizens, while abroad there is nothing like a correct conception of their magnitude and extent. Some go back to the census of returns of 1850, and base their opinions of the capacity of Illinois upon the figures there given, as if they furnished a fair criterion by which to judge. They forget, or perhaps have never learned, that since those statistics were made up, nearly twenty-five hundred miles of railroad have been built in the State; that its population has increased from 851,470 to nearly 1,500,000; that the number of acres under cultivation now is more than double that of 1850; that all the more recent improvements in the various processes of agriculture have come into general use; and that production has been further stimulated by the increased facility for moving products to market, and by unprecedentedly high prices. And they further forget that, with all this increased production, hardly one third of the arable lands of the State have been reclaimed from their natural condition. Without considering all these elements, any conclusion drawn from the census of 1850 would be of the most fallacious character, and would fall far short of doing justice to our noble State.

The building of railroads in our State has led to a great deal of investigation respecting its undeveloped wealth of soil and minerals. Particularly have investigations of this character been set on foot through that vast portion of the State traversed by the Illinois Central Road. Prior to the construction of this great work, but little comparatively was known of the country which it has opened to cultivation. Remote from navigable watercourses, with neither natural nor artificial outlets to market, it was passed by almost unnoticed by the immigrant. For many long years it had been offered for sale at the minimum price of public lands, ($1 25 per acre,) but with very rare exceptions, here and there, it remained a "drug" upon the hands of the Government. But with the construction of the Illinois Central Railroad, the only condition unfavorable to its settlement passed away, and instantly upon that event, explorers commenced traversing it in all directions, enterprising settlers bought up the public lands at double the minimum rate, the Company found willing purchasers for its immense possessions at a much greater price, and the "waste and solitary places" were speedily transformed into enterprising communities that will already compare favorably in thrift and in the means of comfort with the earlier settled portions of the State. It was found that soils the richest, and a climate unusually exempt from the ordinary malaria of unsettled countries, marked the whole course of the road. Particularly were new facts brought to light respecting the middle and southern portions of the State, which hitherto had been as a sealed book to immigrants seeking a Western home by way of the Lake, and other northern routes. Yankee enterprise had but rarely planted itself in this portion of the State. It was ignominiously designated "Egypt," and but very few from the Northern or Eastern States could be induced to explore the country and judge from personal inspection of the truth or falsity of the current statements respecting it. The day of this humiliation has passed forever from Southern Illinois. It continues to be styled "Egypt," indeed, but the designation is no longer a reproach. The name has become honorable — suggestive of fruitfulness and plenty.

The reputation of Southern Illinois, as respects productive capacity, having been thus vindicated and established, and all that tract of country constituting the high table lands forming the divide between the waters flowing west into the Illinois and Mississippi, and those flowing east into the Wabash and Ohio, having been furnished with railroad facilities, the question as to the agricultural resources of our State becomes easy of solution. In all those ingredients of soil and concomitants of climate requisite to the most bountiful production of the cereals and grasses, in all of those conditions regarded as peculiarly favorable to the growth of stock, and particularly in topographical adaptation to the application of machinery in agricultural pursuits, Illinois may proudly challenge comparison with the most favored of her sisters of the North-west or South-west. We have travelled through nearly every county in the State, we have conversed with the old pioneers who know every foot of the ground, we have had the opinion of surveyors and engineers, and from all that we can gather from our own observation and that of others, we hesitate not to say that at least eighty per cent. of the entire area of the State consists of first class arable land, and ninety per cent. of it is susceptible of profitable culture. The area of the State is 55,000 square miles. Eighty per cent. of that is 44,000 square miles, equal to 28,250,000 acres. An average corn crop in Illinois is fifty bushels to the acre. Supposing the whole of the area to be devoted to corn growing, the ordinary annual yield would be, in round numbers, 1,413,000,000 bushels! Are these figures startling? They are inside of what might be done.

But we must leave this branch of our subject, although it is far from being exhausted, to say a few words upon the crop of 1855. And here again the U. S. census returns of 1850 constitute no safe criterion. The crop of 1849 was less than an average one in Illinois. According to the returns it was as follows: —

Indian Corn,	bu. 57,646,984
Oats,	10,087,241
Wheat,	9,414,575
Rye,	83,364
Total,	77,232,164

This was the product of a short crop, with a total population of 851,470, and with an area under cultivation of 5,039,545 acres. It must also be borne in mind that prices were comparatively low, and that there were less than 100 miles of completed railroad in the State, from which facts it will be seen that nothing like the present stimulus to production existed. We are told by old farmers, in whose sound, practical judgment we have every confidence, that the product per acre in 1855 is nearly double that of 1849. If this be true, and if there had been no enlargement of the area cultivated between those periods, it would give as the total grain crop for 1855, nearly 175,000,000 bushels. But the area has been immensely increased since 1840 — probably if we were to say, 10,000,000 acres, we would not overstep the bounds of truth. Upon the subject of the crop of 1855, we are in possession of direct information from some of the most intelligent men of the State, and from nearly every county in it, on which we venture the following estimate: —

Indian Corn,	bu. 180,000,000
Wheat,	20,000,000
Oats, Barley, and Rye,	50,000,000
Total,	250,000,000

This estimate we believe to be under, rather than over, the actual result. If any objection is raised against it, it will doubtless be with respect to the corn crop, the figures for which are truly startling to those who have not duly considered the subject. An observation extended over a large portion of the State last summer, together with a large mass of information obtained from others, warrants us in saying that the breadth devoted to corn, last year, was four times as great as that of all other grains. In 1849, ten counties alone in the State produced over 18,000,000 bushels of corn. We subjoin the list for the satisfaction of our readers: —

Sangamon,	3,318,000
Morgan,	2,693,000
Adams,	2,092,000
Macoupin,	1,598,000
Fulton,	1,430,000
Knox,	1,570,000
Pike,	1,375,000
Cass,	1,417,000
Vermilion,	1,475,000
Green,	1,346,000
Total,	18,314,000

We are told, on authority, that we cannot call in question, that the corn crop of 1855 in Sangamon County was twice as large as ever before. If it had increased none since 1849, the aggregate for the present year would reach nearly 7,000,000 bushels! Sangamon County has an area of about 900 square miles, which gives more than eleven bushels of corn to the acre for the whole county! And this is but one of the hundred counties comprising the State. Will any one venture to say that our estimate is too large? If so, let him consider the following figures, showing the amount of grain which reached this city the present year by only two of our thoroughfares: —

*By Galena Railroad,	bu. 10,165,107
By Canal,	5,716,360
Total,	15,881,467

Let it be borne in mind, that a large part of this aggregate consists of corn, that it is corn of the growth of 1854, that the corn crop of that year was almost a failure, owing to an unprecedented drought, and then consider, if a season of universal scarcity gives such results, what may we not expect a season of more than ordinary fruitfulness to do? The actual fact, in the completeness of its magnitude, can of course only be known at the close of the next year, when the immense surplus of this year's corn crop shall have been brought to market; but these figures, in connection with those which precede them, are certainly conclusive as to the reasonableness of the estimates we have given above.

We had intended in this article to give some facts and estimates respecting cattle and hogs within the State, but this article has grown so much upon our hands, that we must bring it to a close. It may be well enough to remark, however, that such a surplus as our figures indicate will require all the rolling stock of our railroads, all the warehouses of our city, all the shipping of our port, and all the money facilities that the banking capital of the city and State can furnish, to move it to market. — *Democratic Press.*

* This amount includes receipts by the main track of the Illinois Central and the Chicago, Burlington, and Quincy roads.

STATISTICS OF TOWNS ON THE ILLINOIS CENTRAL RAILROAD. 1856.

NAMES.	Date of Organization.	Number of Inhabitants in 1850.	Number of Inhabitants in 1855.	Number of Inhabitants in 1856.	Number of Houses in 1856.	No. of Churches & Meeting-houses.	Number of Schools and Academies.	Number of Stores.	Number of Hotels.	Number of Saw Mills.	Number of Flour Mills.	Number of Foundries.	Number of Acres in Wheat in 1855	Number of Acres in Wheat in 1856.	Number of Acres in Corn in 1855.	Number of Acres in Corn in 1856.	Number of New Farms opened in 1856.	Number of New Farms to be opened in the Spring of 1857.
MAIN LINE.																		
Dunleith,.....	1853	5	700	1,800	260	1	2	13	5	..	..	5	Well	cultiv	ated b	ack of	to	wn
Menominee,...	No	town	yet	form'd	here.	..	..		..	..	..	..					...	...
Galena,.....	1835	6,000	9,500	12,000	2,500	13	22	148	25	2	1	20	This	is a m	ining	count	ry.	...
Council Hill,.	1828	300	400	500	120	3	3	5	5	..	2	4	7,000	10,000	4,000	4,000	50	40
Scales Mound,	1850	14	256	292	40	2	2	4	2	..	..	..	6,900	8,320	10,400	12,480	72	79
Apple River,.	1854	None	140	200	40	1	1	5	1	..	..	..	3,000	5,000	2,500	2,000	70	40
Warren, ...	1850	25	350	800	150	2	2	17	2	..	..	10	6,000	8,000	6,000	7,000	50	70
Nora,.....	1852	None	300	400	78	1	2	6	2	..	1	4	10,500	15,320	5,200	7,660	80	20
Lena,.....	1853	5	350	468	116	3	2	6	2	1	..	3	No re	turns.			...	...
Elevoy, ...	1850	18	225	750	150	2	3	3	2	..	..	..	No re	turns.			...	...
Freeport,.....	1838	1,400	5,000	6,000	1,600	9	8	51	7	2	2	10	22,000	37,000	15,000	23,000	65	84
Forreston, ...	1855	None	90	153	30	1	1	2	1	..	..	..	9,000	10,500	6,500	7,000	49	72
Polo, ...	1854	None	550	2,500	500	3	13	25	3	3	2	..	12,000	14,000	9,000	10,000	60	80
Woosung,....	1855	None	54	105	30	..	1	1	1	..	1	..	1,450	2,800	3,800	4,200	34	58
Dixon, ...	1839	540	3,200	4,500	515	8	8	35	5	3	2	8	20,000	25,000	24,000	30,000	80	150
Amboy,.....	1850	16	1,329	2,500	350	3	2	21	3	1	2	3	22,000	32,000	34,000	47,000	70	100
Sublette,.....	1855	None	185	1,098	158	1	7	2	1	..	..	..	3,800	4,680	3,000	3,580	8	7
Mendota,*....	1853	None	1,800	1,400	242	3	3	37	7	1	1	5	25,200	28,800	32,400	43,200	100	70
Homer,.....	No	town	yet	form'd	here.	..	..		..	..	..	..	16,000	21,000	19,000	35,000	60	80
La Salle,.....	1839	200	3,500	7,250	1,550	10	14	123	8	2	2	13	7,000	10,000	20,000	25,000	125	100
Tonica, ...	1850	3	180	240	50	2	2	4	1	..	..	..	21,500	23,600	28,500	38,000	180	160
Wenona, ...	1855	None	53	1,200	300	2	3	3	1	1	..	..	25,000	40,600	20,300	38,000	100	140
New Rutland,	1856	None	None	70	12	..	1	1	1	..	..	..	4,360	9,500	8,000	10,000	128	73
Minonk,.....	1854	None	70	130	28	..	1	4	1	..	..	..	6,700	9,000	5,100	6,500	179	138
Panola,.....	1853	None	150	195	39	..	..	3	1	..	1	..	18,000	24,000	12,000	16,000	100	120
Kappa, ...	1853	None	150	208	47	..	1	4	1	1	1	..	12,740	21,600	30,100	35,220	60	80
Hudson,.....	1836	25	103	110	23	1	1	2	1	..	..	..	10,000	16,890	20,000	23,920	21	15
Bloomington,	1832	2,200	5,500	7,000	2,986	15	17	75	8	4	3	30	40,000	65,000	45,000	60,000	400	600
Heyworth, ...	1856	None	15	200	20	1	1	4	1	..	..	..	20,000	30,000	18,000	25,000	70	150
Wapella,.....	1853	None	275	350	73	..	1	6	2	..	..	2	11,200	15,800	21,500	28,000	140	200
Clinton,.....	1845	800	1,500	1,600	350	3	4	22	3	..	4	..	2,500	8,500	32,000	35,000	75	100
Maroa,.....	1855	None	6	28	3	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	3,500	6,500	4,000	4,600	26	40
Decatur,.....	1829	600	2,200	4,000	800	6	5	58	3	3	2	11	24,000	47,000	50,000	78,000	100	120
Macon, ...	1854	None	28			..	..		..	..	..	..	No re	turns.			...	...
Moawequa,...	1853	None	300	400	150	1	1	4	2	3	1	6	25,000	44,000	4,000	7,000	30	50
Tacusa,.....	1855	None	40	40	7	..	..	1	1	..	..	..	2,000	3,500	4,000	5,500	25	40
Pana, ...	1855	None	250	850	86	1	1	6	2	..	..	1	2,000	2,500	12,000	15,000	25	32
Oconee,.....	1855	None	70	80	22	..	1	1	..	..	..	..	1,300	10,000	20,000	15,000	15	13
Ramsey,.....	1856	None	5	75	10	1	1	2	1	2	..	..	6,200	11,700	15,600	22,200	6	10
Vandalia,....	1820	360	1,000	1,600	265	4	2	12	4	..	1	..	1,000	2,400	4,000	6,000	20	26
Shobonier,....	1856	None	None	23	3	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	1,500	2,000	3,000	5,000	15	20
Patoka,.....	1855	None	20	18	5	..	..	2	2	..	..	..	400	900	1,800	2,500	7	30
Sandoval,....	1854	None	120	120	30	..	3	2	2	1	..	..	300	800	1,400	2,000	10	23
Centralia,....	1854	None	600	1,900	275	2	1	11	3	..	1	4	1,500	1,800	5,000	9,000	90	165
Richview,....	1840	65	525	718	156	2	2	10	3	1	2	1	3,000	15,000	35,600	40,000	50	60
Ashley,.....	1854	None	150	300	100	2	1	10	3	2	1	6	2,000	6,000	8,000	10,000	50	84
Coloma,.....	1856	None	40	113	24	1	4	3	1	1	..	..	1,000	5,000	8,000	9,000	38	54
Tamaroa,....	1854	None	48	60	17	..	1	3	2	..	..	..	4,200	6,740	18,000	21,000	31	59
Du Quoin,...	1853	None	125	300	40	..	1	5	1	..	..	..	2,000	6,640	12,400	12,000	12	32
De Soto,.....	1854	None	500	500	80	..	2	5	1	1	1	..	4,320	8,200	12,000	15,600	142	215

* At Mendota the decrease in population is owing to the withdrawal of some hundreds of laborers, who were employed in the construction of the Railroad.

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Carbondale,..	1853	None	350	700	110	2	2	11	2	10	13	4	3,000	4,500	6,200	8,000	30	58
Makanda,* ..	1854	14	22	50	4	..	1	...	1	1	...	..	4,200	6,200	4,500	5,640	10	28
Jonesboro',...	1818	584	804	1,200	263	3	2	21	4	2	1	..	21,000	24,500	43,000	47,000	118	231
Wetaug,.....	1856	None	40	120	23	2	2	1	1	5	...	..	7,200	10,000	6,000	9,400	49	132
Ullin,.....	1854	None	110	250	33	..	2	2	1	8	2	1	15,000	20,000	25,000	40,000	52	126
Pulaski, ...	1854	None	100	150	30	..	..	1	..	4	1	..	3,000	6,500	4,100	4,500	15	21
Villa Ridge,..	1854	None	50	96	12	..	..	1	1	3	...	..	This	is in a	timbe r coun	try	...	
Cairo,.....	1853	300	1,300	3,000	400	3	2	36	6	1	1	5	This	is in a	timbe r coun	try	...	
Chicago Branch Line.																		
Calumet,.....	1838	50	150	247	56	1	2	1	2	1	1	..	A gra	zing d	istrict	3,000	10	9
Thornton,....	1853	None	120	168	31	..	1	3	2	1	1	..	700	840	1,100	1,300	9	30
Matteson, ...	1856	None	8	No re	turns	..	..	...	..	..	..	..					...	...
Richton,.....	1853	10	20	500	47	3	4	4	1	..	..	..	800	1,200	3,000	4,000	10	12
Monee, ...	1850	145	350	800	80	..	6	4	2	1	..	..	700	1,300	4,500	7,200	11	15
Peotone,.....	1856	None	None	34	8	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3,500	6,000	3,400	8,740	8	19
Manteno,....	1854	None	175	750	200	1	4	5	..	..	..	..	10,600	12,400	14,500	15,200	50	45
Kankakee,...	1853	None	2,500	3,640	820	5	5	72	3	1	2	5	6,000	8,000	10,000	22,000	300	200
Chebanse,.....	1854	None	25	600	125	1	1	5	..	..	..	..	260	2,000	1,500	3,400	40	21
Ashkum,.....	1855	None	None	50	6	..	..	2	1	..	..	..	5,250	12,520	1,800	3,780	58	86
Onarga,.....	1854	None	100	320	64	1	3	6	1	2	2	..	3,000	4,200	8,100	10,900	52	59
Spring Creek,	1852	15	38	110	15	..	..	1	..	1	1	..	1,000	1,500	2,340	3,480	40	52
Loda,.....	1855	None	100	174	31	1	1	7	1	..	1	1	400	11,000	300	2,460	105	97
Pera, ...	1855	None	3	28	4	..	..	2	..	..	..	..	210	1,080	2,460	4,600	26	71
Rantoul, ...	1856	None	None	125	21	..	..	2	1	..	..	..	4,240	8,000	2,000	3,500	84	124
Urbana,.....	1833	500	1,561	3,285	367	4	4	34	6	2	2	3	5,680	18,964	12,000	13,000	117	135
Tolono, ...	1856	Just	laid	out.		..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2,600	4,800	5,000	8,000	41	192
Pesotum,....	1854	None	16	33	5	..	..	2	1	3	1	..	3,140	8,410	4,270	6,450	78	32
Okaw,.....	1855	None	2	20	4	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1,500	6,400	60,000	78,000	20	50
Mattoon,.....	1855	None	150	472	113	1	1	11	3	..	..	..	2,000	8,000	65,000	84,000	18	65
Neoga,.....	1856	Just	laid	out.		..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3,000	5,000	42,000	61,000	34	46
Effingham, ..	1855	None	25	200	41	2	1	4	1	..	..	..	5,000	9,000	12,000	18,000	20	61
Edgewood, ..	1856	Just	laid	out.		..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1,500	4,000	11,000	21,000	15	40
Farina, ...	1856	Just	laid	out.		..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3,000	6,500	10,000	16,000	14	32
Tonti, ...	1856	Just	laid	out.		..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1,800	7,400	9,400	17,000	11	43
Odin,.....	1856	Just	laid	out.		..	..	..	..	..	..	..	740	2,540	14,000	20,000	37	80

* Around Makanda upwards of 9000 acres are planted with Peach trees alone.

The above tables are intended to show the exact state of each town at the close of the year 1856. At some of these stations small settlements existed before the organization of a town, which accounts for population appearing on the statement. in a few instances, before the date given for its organization.

Corn and Wheat being the great staples of Illinois, it has been thought best to give them the most prominent position, merely making a note where grazing or fruit growing *entirely* supplanted them.

The amounts under cultivation apply to a circumference of from five to ten miles from the stations, and do not, therefore, include the back settlements, where it would be too extensive an undertaking to obtain exact statistics.

ILLINOIS CENTRAL RAILROAD

CARRYING THE

GREAT SOUTHERN MAIL AND NEW ORLEANS EXPRESS,

RUNNING THE ENTIRE LENGTH OE THE STATE OF ILLINOIS,

FROM CHICAGO, OR DUNLEITH, TO CAIRO.

TWO DAILY EXPRESS PASSENGER TRAINS will leave (Sundays excepted) CHICAGO and DUNLEITH for CAIRO, and CAIRO for DUNLEITH, and CHICAGO, making direct connections with Trains of all Railroads running East or West.

PASSENGERS FROM THE EAST for St. Louis, Springfield, Bloomington, Naples and Jacksonville, will save time by taking the ILLINOIS CENTRAL RAILROAD, it being the most direct RAILROAD ROUTE BETWEEN CHICAGO AND ST. LOUIS.

Passengers from the Southeast, for BURLINGTON, ROCK ISLAND, IOWA CITY, GALENA, DUBUQUE, DUNLEITH, ST. PAUL'S, CHICAGO, and all points in the North and Northwest, will save *time and money*, and have *less changes of cars and baggage*, by securing their Tickets *via* TERRE HAUTE and PANA, and arrive hours in advance of the Michigan City Route.

The opening of this direct line of Railroad between CHICAGO and CAIRO affords to the people of Eastern and Northern Cities, the quickest and most comfortable passage to all places in the Southern and Southwestern States; relieving them from a great part of the River Navigation, and that which has been heretofore so objectionable and dangerous to travellers. At CAIRO, the confluence of the Ohio with the Mississippi, the River is navigable at all seasons of the year, and Passengers have the privilege of selecting the most secure and comfortable Steamers that float on either River.

THE ILLINOIS CENTRAL RAILROAD COMPANY, for the accommodation of the Travelling Public, have erected, at suitable intervals along their line, large and commodious Hotels, unsurpassed, in means of comfort and accommodation by any Railroad Hotels in the Union.

DIRECT CONNECTIONS BOTH NORTH AND SOUTH:

At DUNLEITH, with a Daily Line of Steamers to and from La Crosse, Prairie Duchien, St. Paul, and all intermediate points on the Upper Mississippi.

At FREEPORT, with Galena and Chicago Union Railroad, to and from Chicago, Beloit, Madison and Janesville, and from thence to all parts of Wisconsin.

At DIXON, with Dixon and Iowa Central Railroad for Fulton and Lyons.

At LA SALLE, with Chicago and Rock Island Railroad, to and from Rock Island, Davenport and Iowa City.

At MENDOTA, with Chicago, Burlington and Quincy Railroad, to and from Burlington, Quincy, and all points in Central Iowa.

AT PEORIA JUNCTION, with Peoria and Oquawka Railroad, to and from Peoria, Galesburg, Burlington and Quincy.

At DECATUR, or TOLONO, with Great Western Railroad, to and from Springfield, Jacksonville, Naples, and towns on the Illinois River, also with Lake Erie and Wabash Railroad, to and from Lafayette, Fort Wayne and Toledo.

At PANA, or MATTOON, with Terre Haute, Alton and St. Louis R. R. to and from St. Louis, Terre Haute, Indianapolis, Columbus, Cincinnati, Wheeling, Baltimore, and Washington.

At SANDOVAL, or ODIN, with Ohio and Miss. R. R. to and from Vincennes and St. Louis.

At ST. LOUIS, for Jefferson City, and all points in Kansas and Nebraska.

At CAIRO, with U. S. Mail Steamers, (Daily,) for Memphis, Natchez, Vicksburg, New Orleans, and all points on the Lower Mississippi.

Through Tickets can be procured at all Railroad Offices.

JAMES C. CLARKE,
Master of Transportation,
CHICAGO, ILL.

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